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**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ  
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**ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ  
ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ  
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО**



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR  
EUROPE**

**COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE DES  
NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EUROPE**

**ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ  
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ**

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**TRANSPORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PAN-EUROPEAN PROGRAMME  
THE PEP**

**Preparatory meeting to the  
Fifth High-level Meeting on  
Transport, Health and Environment**

**25 January 2021, Online meeting**

**ENGLISH ONLY  
17 February 2021**

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**

**I. INTRODUCTION AND PARTICIPATION**

1. The Preparatory meeting to the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment was convened by the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) on 25 January 2021. Following the request from THE PEP Steering Committee at its eighteenth session (online, 25-27 November 2020), the secretariat organized interpretation in English, French and Russian with extrabudgetary funds. The meeting was convened online, because of the persisting travel and meeting restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Ireland, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan and Turkey.
3. Representatives of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) of the Netherlands also attended, as well as representatives of the Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport.
4. THE PEP secretariat was represented by Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Ms. Virginia Fusé, Ms. Amy Choi and Ms. Anja Nerima (UNECE Environment Division), Mr. Francesco Dionori (UNECE Sustainable Transport Division), and Ms. Francesca Racioppi, Mr. Massimo Cozzone and Ms. Nino Sharashidze (WHO/Europe).
5. Mr. Robert Thaler (Austria), Chair of the Steering Committee of THE PEP, opened and chaired the meeting.
6. The participants adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the secretariat.
7. The Committee adopted the Report of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme of its eighteenth session, held virtually from 25 to 27 November 2020.

**II. THE DRAFT VIENNA DECLARATION**

8. The Chair confirmed that the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment would take place online on 17-18 May 2021, hosted by Austria.
9. The participants discussed the draft ministerial declaration and decided on modification on the following parts:
  - a. The title;
  - b. The preamble;
  - c. The part “Strategy and actions for achieving our vision and accelerating the transformation towards sustainable transport and mobility”

- d. The part “Paving the way for healthy and active mobility in the pan-European region”;
  - e. The part “THE PEP: fostering the transformation to achieve our vision”.
10. The participants in the meeting decided to complete the negotiations on the draft declaration during an additional Preparatory meeting to take place before the High-level Meeting and possibly at the beginning of March 2021.

### III. ANNEXES TO THE DRAFT VIENNA DECLARATION

11. The Chair invited participants to discuss the annexes to the draft declaration.

#### A. Annex I to the draft declaration (Facts and Figures)

12. The Chair recalled that the Steering Committee, at its eighteenth session, decided that Annex I to the draft declaration, on challenges, opportunities and vision, would be based on the facts and figures brochure and would cover the main facts and messages. The Chair thanked the representatives of the Netherlands for this valuable initiative. The RIVM experts from the Netherlands were to compile a text based on the brochure and present it at the preparatory meeting. Furthermore, the Steering Committee mandated the secretariat to submit the document in the three official languages of UNECE at the High-level Meeting.
13. Delegates from the Netherlands and its RIVM presented the draft of the brochure with the layout and the draft text for Annex I. Delegates from the Netherlands also informed that, because of delays in the preparation of the brochure, it would not be possible to prepare all the text in time to be submitted as official document for the High-level Meeting. Nonetheless, the text that would be used for Annex I would be ready in time to allow its submission.
14. Participants discussed both texts. They commented positively on the layout and provided comments on the content and on the wording. They recommended that facts and figures be oriented towards solutions. Participants decided that:
- a. The title of Annex I was to be changed to “Challenges and opportunities for transport, health and environment” to better reflect its content and aim;
  - b. Delegates from the Netherlands were to make available, by the beginning of February 2021, a new draft of both texts;
  - c. Member States were to provide comments on the content and on wording;
  - d. Delegates from the Netherlands were to share with member States a new draft of Annex I by 22 February 2021, so that it could be discussed at the next preparatory meeting on 2 March 2021. At the same time, the Dutch experts were to continue their work on the brochure according to the timeframe presented.

#### B. Annex II to the draft declaration (Principles of Green and Healthy Sustainable Transport)

15. The secretariat presented the updated version of the work of the task force to develop recommendations for green and healthy sustainable transport, modified as requested by the Steering Committee at its eighteenth session. In particular, the secretariat presented the updated version of chapter III, which was to be included as Annex II to the draft declaration, and the rest of the document, which was to be issued as a publication.
16. The representatives of member States:
- a. Agreed on the text of chapter III and asked the secretariat to present it as official document to the High-level Meeting, with the intention of it becoming Annex II of the draft declaration;
  - b. Agreed to change the title of Annex II to reflect the content of the text. The revised title of Annex II was to be “Recommendations on Green and Healthy Sustainable Transport – Building Forward Better”;
  - c. Requested the secretariat to finalize the publication.

#### C. Annex III to the draft declaration (Draft pan-European master plan for cycling promotion)

17. The Chair thanked the delegations of Austria and France and all involved member States, WHO, UNECE and ECF for the important outcome. The Chair recalled that the Steering Committee, at its eighteenth session, agreed to include in chapter V of the draft pan-European master plan for cycling promotion elements on the way forward for the implementation of the infrastructure module. The updated version was to be discussed at the final meeting of THE PEP Partnership on Cycling Promotion in mid-January 2021.

18. A representative of Austria, one of the leaders of the Partnership on cycling, responsible for the draft, reported on the progress achieved and explained that some additional discussions would be needed to finalize the draft Pan-European master plan for cycling promotion.
19. The participants agreed that:
  - a. The Partnership on cycling should hold a final meeting before the next Preparatory meeting on 2 March 2021, with the aim to finalize the draft master plan;
  - b. Representatives of member States should receive the updated draft at least one week before the Preparatory meeting to allow consultations in capitals;
  - c. The secretariat was to submit the draft document as official document for the High-level Meeting.
20. Participants also briefly discussed the future of the Partnership after the High-level Meeting. In this respect, a mandate for further work of the Partnership was included in the draft declaration. There was agreement on the continuation of the Partnership, especially in view of the implementation of the master plan. This work could be coordinated by a pan-European Competence Centre for Active Mobility.

#### **D. Annexes IV, V and VI to the draft declaration**

21. No discussions were held on Annexes IV and V, as the text was already agreed. Representatives of member States requested to have more time to look into the draft workplan for the period 2021-2026 – Annex VI to the draft declaration. They, furthermore, agreed to change the title of the document to “Draft workplan for the period 2021-2025” at the request of the Russian Federation, since the country offered to host the Sixth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment in 2025.
22. The secretariat was to post the revised draft document on the website.

#### **IV. UPDATES ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

23. The Chair, as representative of Austria, the host country, presented a proposal for the programme of the High-level Meeting (online, 17-18 May 2021). He highlighted that:
  - a. The High-level Meeting was to start in the afternoon of 17 May and end at lunch time on 18 May. The entire session would be high-level.
  - b. The meeting would be organized as an online event. In case meeting and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic were eased, the Executive Secretary of UNECE and the Regional Director of WHO/Europe would be invited to attend the meeting in person and join the Ministers of the host country on the podium;
  - c. The High-level Meeting would be preceded by a special session of THE PEP Steering Committee on 17 May in the morning.
  - d. Side events were to be replaced by webinars organized online from 10 to 12 May 2021. The Secretariat and the host country would oversee the selection of topics on webinars. Virtual exhibitions would also be possible.
24. The Participants thanked the Chair for the presentation and:
  - a. Agreed on the structure of the High-level Meeting, preceded by the special session of THE PEP Steering Committee;
  - b. Requested the host country to disseminate information on webinars and exhibitions, also through a dedicated website, so that member States and other stakeholders could apply for them;
  - c. Agreed to inform the host country on the wish of Ministers of their countries to take the floor at the event;
  - d. Agreed to provide suggestions on keynote speakers.

#### **V. OTHER BUSINESS**

25. The secretariat informed the Committee that a new publication was being prepared with the support of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health. It aims to present policymakers with the latest scientific evidence and knowledge

underpinning the promotion of walking and cycling and is expected to be launched at the High-level Meeting, complementing and supporting other documents produced for the event.

## VI. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

26. The Chair summarized the discussions and decisions of the meeting. He reminded participants that the next Preparatory meeting would take place online on 2 March 2021 and that it should preferably have interpretation in the three official languages of UNECE. The Chair closed the meeting.