

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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**WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
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**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE**

**ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО**



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
EUROPE**

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

**ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ**

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

**39th Meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee
of the Transport, Health and Environment
Pan-European Programme (THE PEP)**

1 March 2022, Online meeting

**ENGLISH ONLY
16 March 2022**

REPORT OF THE MEETING

I. INTRODUCTION AND PARTICIPATION

1. The thirty-ninth meeting of the Bureau of the Steering Committee of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP) was convened online, because of the persisting travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The Bureau meeting was attended by its members from the following member States: Austria, France, Georgia, Malta, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Switzerland.
3. THE PEP Secretariat was represented by Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Ms. Virginia Fusé and Ms. Amy Choi (UNECE Environment Division), Mr. Francesco Dionori (UNECE Sustainable Transport Division), and Ms. Francesca Racioppi and Ms. Nino Sharashidze (WHO/Europe).
4. Ms. Vigdis Rønning (Norway), Chair of the Bureau, opened and chaired the meeting. UNECE and WHO/Europe representatives welcomed participants.
5. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the secretariat.
6. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the report of the nineteenth session of the Steering Committee had been submitted for translation. The corrigendum to the report of the fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment had also been submitted.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION

Twentieth anniversary of the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme

7. France provided information on the event marking the twentieth anniversary of THE PEP, held within the context of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union on 13-14 January 2022. The Chair, the Bureau and the secretariat thanked France for organizing and hosting the event, which was a great success. At the event, member States agreed that transport needs to be decarbonized and that electric bikes and cars will be important elements of future mobility, together with public transport. This means there is the need to see a change in the hierarchy of road users so that, where appropriate, pedestrians and cyclists followed by public transport are given priority.
8. Participants also recognized that great steps have been taken on how transport, health and environment work together to enable results that would not be possible to achieve otherwise. THE PEP Relay Race workshops and

THE PEP Partnerships were indicated as examples of the international cooperation needed to address complex issues surrounding transport, health and environmental policies.

9. Member States attending the meeting agreed that elements from the meeting could be part of the discussions on the Strategy on transport, health and environment.

Strategy on transport, health and the environment

10. The secretariat informed the Bureau about preparations for the development of THE PEP strategy. The secretariat received nominations for initial members of the open-ended ad-hoc working group. Members of the Bureau were among the members. Furthermore, the working group will require the assistance of a consultant to support the work and need to hold meetings possibly with interpretation and the translation of documents.
11. The secretariat noted that funds had not been secured for the provision of these services and therefore, for the moment, interpretation and translation will not be available. Furthermore, while the terms of reference for the consultant have already been prepared, funding limitations mean that no one has been hired.
12. WHO/Europe and Austria noted that other, academic support should also be considered and added to the working group for the strategy in a manner similar to the group created for the preparation of Recommendations for Green and Healthy Sustainable Transport. Such support would be identified after having established the scope of the strategy.
13. The secretariat informed the Bureau that the secretariat was investigating work on gender in transport, health and environment carried out under other United Nations frameworks and by other stakeholders. The result of this work could be presented at the first meeting of the working group
14. The Bureau agreed to hold the initial meeting of the working group on 29 March 2022 between 2pm and 5pm (Geneva time) to further define the scope of activities. The secretariat agreed to send a link to the virtual meeting to members of the working group along with an agenda and any other supporting documents. The secretariat also agreed to share with the members of the group an estimate for the cost of translation, interpretation and consultancy support prior to the first meeting. The Bureau noted that the working group could be chaired by the Chair or one of the Vice-Chairs of the Steering Committee of THE PEP as this role should be taken by its members.

Options for possible legal instruments and communication strategy

15. The Bureau noted that the work on possible legal instruments will be closely linked to the work on the strategy and the working group for the strategy should also start to consider this.
16. The secretariat noted that work is ongoing on the development of a communications strategy for THE PEP and that WHO/Europe has been able to source funds to hire a consultant for the development of the strategy. It was noted that the first draft should be available in June or July 2022.

Updates and discussion on THE PEP Partnerships

17. Austria provided an update on the current and future activities of the Partnerships on Active Mobility, on Sustainable Tourism Mobility and on Child- and Youth-friendly Mobility. The Bureau thanked Austria for the update. The Chair noted that Norway is very keen on being involved in the Partnership on Active Mobility. Austria agreed to send a full list of the meetings for these partnerships in 2022 to the secretariat, which would then share it with the Steering Committee (and attached to this report as Annex I).

Updates on the Workplan for 2021-2025

18. The secretariat presented the updated workplan for 2021-2025 showing the modifications that were made following the mandate received at the nineteenth session of the Steering Committee. The Bureau adopted the updates to the workplan for 2021-2025 and agreed that it be submitted to the Steering Committee at its twentieth session in the three UNECE official languages.

Updates on THE PEP Relay Race

19. The secretariat noted, that at the moment, there are no THE PEP Relay-race workshops planned for this year but highlighted that UNECE and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) recently developed a Memorandum of Understanding, in which the possibility of relay-race workshops in the framework of THE PEP is considered. Further information on this will follow in due course.

Updates on THE PEP publications

20. The secretariat provided an update on THE PEP publications currently being completed including the final version of the Vienna Declaration publication, THE PEP brochure and the WHO/Europe-led Booklet “Walking and cycling: latest evidence to support policy-making and practice”. Austria agreed to send the final version of the Eco-driving study to the secretariat to make it available on the website of THE PEP. Bureau members are encouraged to provide feedback on the publications respecting the deadlines provided by the secretariat, as they are established considering a number of administrative tasks, including contracts for editing, layout and translation that, if not respected, may lead to these resources no longer being available.

Updates on THE PEP Survey

21. The secretariat updated the Bureau on the development of the new THE PEP Survey, in particular, the secretariat integrated into the questionnaire the comments received from the Steering Committee members as well as the members of THE PEP Partnership on Active Mobility. Currently, the secretariat requires external assistance to convert the questionnaire into an online bilingual survey. The secretariat also plans to conduct survey testing. The funding is available for finalization of the survey and it would be ready for adoption at the twentieth session of the Steering Committee. The first survey using the new questionnaire will be conducted for 2022-2023 years and the results will be presented at the twenty first session of the Steering Committee in 2023.

III. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCESSES

22. The secretariat informed the Bureau on the upcoming Ninth Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference and the Seventh Environment and Health Ministerial Conference. In particular, the secretariat explained the opportunities for side events during the EfE Conference, especially for the Partnership on Active Mobility (mainly cycling infrastructure and the infrastructure module) and the Partnership on Sustainable Tourism Mobility. This in consideration that the two main themes of the Conference relate to sustainable infrastructure in the framework of green economy and sustainable tourism in the framework of circular economy.
23. Furthermore, the secretariat also informed the Bureau that the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health was to take place in 2023 in Hungary, most probably in the second half of the year. More information was to follow.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

24. The secretariat informed the Bureau that there was no other business.

V. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

25. The Bureau agreed to meet, possibly in person, on 23-24 June 2022, tentatively in Bonn, however, member States were encouraged to host the Bureau meeting. The Chair summarized the discussions and decisions of the meeting and closed the meeting.

Annex I: Selection of THE PEP Partnership meetings

THE PEP Partnership on Active Mobility

- Kick Off Meeting pan-European Master Plan Walking, April 25/26, 2022 – Paris
- Meeting back-to-back with Velocity in Ljubljana, June 13, 2022 – Focus Cycling
- Meeting back-to-back with Walk21 in Dublin, September 19-23, 2022 – Focus Walking
- Meeting back-to-back with TRA in Lisbon, November 14-17, 2022 – Focus Cycling & Walking

Danube Cycle Plans:

- Austrian Cycling Summit with dedicated session on Danube Cycle Plans and a Central/East-European Forum, April 5, 2022
- Meeting at Velocity, June 13, 2022 + Presentation of DCP as an implementation project of the pan-European Master plan in the official programme of Velocity
- 7th Partner Meeting: 5-7 of September 2022 in Croatia (Venue to be fixed)
- Hungarian National Cycling Conference: September 2022 (tbd), Veszprém
- Romanian National Cycling Conference: October/November 2022 (to be communicated)
- 8th Partner Meeting/Final Conference: 11 of October 2022, Praha
- Investment Event: October in Brussels (exact date to be fixed)

THE PEP Partnership on Sustainable Tourism Mobility

- „Invited session“ at the ECOMM, 31 May – 2 June 2022 in Turku, Finland
- Next PS planned in Spain, May/June 2022 (exact venue and date not fixed yet)

THE PEP Partnership on child- and youth-friendly mobility

- 2nd Meeting of the Partnership planned in May 2022, Portugal (exact venue and date not fixed yet) (Topic: participation, awareness raising and education)
- 3rd Meeting of the Partnership planned in Autumn 2022, venue: tbd (Topic: infrastructure, healthy and active mobility)