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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

Eleventh session, 21-22 November 2000  
(Item 11(a) of the provisional agenda)

**ACTIVITIES OF OTHER PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE  
COMMISSION AND THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON  
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION RELEVANT TO THE  
WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY <sup>1</sup>**

Note by the secretariat

1. The present note contains information on those activities in the programme of work of other Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission, which are of relevance to the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Information is based on reports issued since the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

**A. COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

Documentation: ECE/HPB/119, report of the sixty-first session.

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<sup>1</sup> All programme activity designations on this document refer to those cited on the latest reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies mentioned.

#### 10.1.1: Country profiles on the housing sector

2. This project represents a tool for Governments to analyse their housing policies, strategies, institutional and financial frameworks for the housing sector and to compare the progress made internationally. Recommendations for improving policies and practices are an essential part of the programme. It also aims to provide information to potential investors. The country profiles on the housing sector of Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia and Lithuania have been published. Studies on the housing sector of Romania and Republic of Moldova are under preparation.

#### 10.1.4: Housing modernization and policies

3. This activity provides an opportunity to look in detail at urban regeneration policies and at existing and emerging housing problems, especially regarding the existing housing stock and its management. As a result of the privatisation process in countries in transition, the proportion of owner occupied dwellings in multifamily housing has increased considerably. It is therefore important to establish property rights, define mixed ownership forms, and analyse legal conditions of condominiums, their organizational and management frameworks. Practical guidelines on housing condominiums are being prepared to address the major aspects in the public/private sectors in economies in transition.

#### 10.1.6: Major trends characterizing human settlements development

4. Under this element the Committee studies the forces influencing the configuration of urban development and the characteristics of the implementation of urban policies by looking at the major trends characterizing human settlements development and presenting national experiences in formulating and implementing policies for a more sustainable development of human settlements.

### **B. COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Documentation: ECE/CCP/74 Report of the seventh session

#### 3.1: Energy and the environment

5. The Committee on Environmental Policy invited the Committee on Sustainable Energy to establish a joint Task Force on Environment and Energy to develop guidelines for decision-makers on reforming energy prices to promote sustainable energy development. In pursuance of this decision, the Energy Division and the Environment and Human Settlements Division are preparing proposals for a programme and terms of reference for a joint task force for consideration at an informal meeting to be held on 29-30 November 2001 in Prague at the invitation of the Czech Republic.

### 3.4: Integrating environmental considerations into sectoral policies

6. The Ad hoc Working Group of Senior Officials for the preparation of the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” decided that policy integration should be an over-arching theme of the Conference to be held in May 2003 in Kiev..

#### 2.1: Environmental performance reviews

7. Issues of the interface between environment and energy will form part of reviews on environmental performance in meeting domestic environmental policy objectives and relevant international commitments.

### **C. EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION**

Documentation ECE/EB.AIR/71, report of the eighteenth session

#### IV and Annex IV 1.2: Compliance review

8. The Convention’s Implementation Committee carried out an in-depth review of compliance by Parties with the 1985 Sulphur Protocol and the 1988 NO<sub>x</sub> Protocol (EB.AIR/2000/2). All 21 Parties to the 1985 Sulphur Protocol had met their obligations and only one had failed to meet its obligation by 1993, the year identified in the Protocol. Of the 27 Parties to the 1988 NO<sub>x</sub> Protocol, three had failed to meet the required emission reductions. The Implementation Committee also noted that a few Parties to both protocols were failing to report their annual emissions as required. The Committee will carry out an in-depth review of compliance by Parties with the 1991 Volatile Organic Compounds Protocol.

#### III and Annex IV 1.3: Reviews of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement

9. A draft review (EB.AIR/2000/1 and addenda) was prepared based on the information provided by Parties to a questionnaire circulated in January 2000. The review and an executive summary are to be published. A new questionnaire and outline review will be drafted in readiness for the nineteenth session in December 2001, for finalization and sending to Parties in January 2002.

### **D. INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/136, report of the sixty-third session.

#### 02.4: Construction of vehicles

10. Road vehicles and their parts are type approved to ECE Regulations, which are annexed to the so-called 1958 Agreement. Regulation No. 101 is directly concerned with the conservation of energy, and it specifies uniform provisions for the measurement of fuel consumption of passenger cars and light-duty vehicles (M1 and N1 categories), including also measurement of energy consumption and range of electric vehicles.

11. To allow for wider use of the gaseous fuels, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG), Regulations Nos. 83 and 49, controlling emissions of gaseous pollutants of passenger cars, light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, had been extended to vehicles fuelled with LPG and CNG. In addition, the safety requirements for vehicles fuelled with LPG have been upgraded (Regulation No. 67), and a new Regulation No. 110 was established and entered into force on 28 December 2000, concerning the safety requirements for CNG fuelled vehicles. The proposal for a new draft Regulation, concerning retrofitting of LPG and CNG equipment to vehicles which were originally designed for petrol or diesel fuelling had already been completed in April 2000, however, it remains pending on the agenda of the Administrative Committee of the 1958 Agreement awaiting until the European Community would be ready to adopt it as a Contracting Party to the 1958 Agreement.

#### 02.8: Environmental protection and energy saving in transport

##### Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment

12. The ECE has been identified as lead body to support the implementation of a number of specific elements of the Programme of Joint Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (Vienna, 12 to 14 November 1997) (ECE/RCTC/CONF/3/FINAL). The ECE is also mandated to monitor the implementation by Governments and international organizations of other elements of the Programme of Joint Action.

13. In particular, chapter II of the Programme of Joint Action, entitled "Promoting less polluting vehicles and fuels", provides, at the international level, for measures to promote more energy efficient vehicles (items (d) and (f)) and to introduce clean fuels (items (h) and (n)). At the national level, measures have been identified to phase out leaded fuels (item (d)), to reduce energy consumption in the transport sector (items (e) and (f)) and to enhance and ensure fuel quality (items (I) and (j)).

14. The mid-term review of the follow-up of the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment is being prepared for the year 2002 and should be carried out by a joint meeting of the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Environmental Policy.

#### **E. COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

##### **WORKING PARTY ON TECHNICAL HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES**

Documentation: TRADE/WP.6/2000/20, Report of the tenth session;

#### Regular guidance for international standardization through identification of sectors that are of interest to member Governments

15. A fourth revised version of the ECE Standardization List was adopted by the Working Party at its sixth session and published in 1996. Its fifth revision including amendments proposed by member governments was prepared for adoption in 2001. The Working Party started a new project "An International Model for Technical Harm

TRADE/WP.6/2000/8) which is aimed at drawing up principles for international regulatory cooperation through wider use of international standards.

## **F. TIMBER COMMITTEE**

Documentation ECE/TIM/95, report of the fifty-eighth session

### 09.1.6 Forest and forest products sector outlook studies

16. Energy supply is a major end-use for wood, and is regularly monitored under various aspects of the Timber Committee's work, statistics are published on an annual basis. The Forest and forest products sector outlook studies for the forest and forest products sector in the region, will address issues such as the long term scenarios for the supply and demand of forest products and other goods and services of the forest, as well as other major policy relevant issues, of a regional or sub-regional nature, including the use of wood for energy. Following the Commission's decision asking its Principal Subsidiary Bodies to develop further intersectoral linkages, the special topic at the Committee's fifty-ninth session will be "ECE intersectoral cooperation, trade, timber, environment and energy".

## **G. CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Documentation: "Programmes of International Statistical Work in The ECE Region, 2000/2001 And 2001/2002: An Integrated Presentation - Programme Activity 5, Environment Statistics" (doc. CES/2001/3/Add.5, forty-ninth plenary session)

### Programme activity 5: Environment Statistics

17. The Joint ECE/Eurostat Work Session on Methodological Issues in Environment Statistics will take place in Ottawa, Canada from 1 to 4 October 2001 and will discuss topics related to "Environment indicators and development of indicators of sustainable development". The substantive topics for discussion at the meeting include sustainable development indicators and eco-efficiency indicators.