



23rd Meeting of the
European Environment and Health Committee
(EEHC)
27 – 28 February 2007, Brussels, Belgium

with a focus on

BUDAPEST CONFERENCE DECLARATION Paragraph 21b: *'We agree to meet again at a fifth European ministerial conference on environment and health to be held in 2009. We invite WHO to convene an intergovernmental meeting to carry out a midterm review of the process by the end of 2007.'*

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Intergovernmental Midterm Review
(13-15 June 2007, Vienna, Austria)

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Opening session

The meeting will be opened by the Regional Director of WHO, Dr Marc Danzon, followed by opening addresses by Mr Josef Pröll, Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and Ms Maria Rauch-Kallat, Austrian Federal Minister for Health and Women and Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General WHO.

Participants will be invited to elect chairpersons for the different sessions and the rapporteurs for the parallel sessions. Participants will also be invited to adopt the provisional agenda and programme.

A **Keynote Address** by Mr Dimas, European Commissioner for the Environment will close off this session.

Award Ceremony (Best Practice/new initiatives/local project/photo)

Type of award and proceedings still being discussed.

Press Conference

Session 1: Progress made since the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, presenting the evidence

This session will analyse the progress made since the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Budapest in June 2004. It will provide opportunities for Member States, International Governmental Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations and Youth Delegates to report back on activities and actions that took place to ensure implementation of the Budapest Declaration (inclusive of the CEHAPE).



The session will open with **‘Presenting the Evidence’**, a presentation by WHO EURO, on the most recent situation analysis of the WHO European Region. The presentation will set the scene for **‘Implementing Budapest Commitments (Declaration and CEHAPE) – Member States Report’** which will take up the rest of the day.

This part of the programme will take place in four parallel sessions, each addressing a different Regional Priority Goal. These sessions will also ensure reporting back on other commitments set out in the Budapest Declaration and not adequately addressed through the Regional Priority Goals. Member States may choose to participate in one or more of these sessions and to report back on any activities related to that particular goal or to Declaration commitments.

At the end of these parallel sessions, all participants will gather in plenary to hear the outcomes of the parallel sessions as presented by the rapporteurs of parallel sessions, after which a discussion will follow on main achievements, constraints and challenges.

Session 2: Health in all policies. Taking stock and learning from experience

This session will start with a **Keynote Address** by Mr Kyprianou, European Commissioner for Health.

In **‘Policy Instruments – have they made a difference?’** the main objective is to understand, through discussion in plenary, whether policy instruments have an added value in ensuring implementation of the Budapest conference commitments. Presentations will be made about the Transport Health and Environment, Pan-European Process (THE PEP), how it first started as a Transport Health and Environment Charter and evolved into a more dynamic process. The binding UN Water and Health Protocol will also be presented and the challenges and constraints that Member States have faced since the official signature took place at the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in London in 1999. The European Component of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will also be presented.

Discussions in plenary will establish whether a more binding policy instrument can help to ensure better implementation, which will lead to discussions about the possibility of upgrading the Children’s Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe to a more binding international instrument such as a Charter, Protocol or Convention.

The next part of this session is dedicated to **‘Strengthening Health Service Capacity to protect Health from Environmental Hazards – a Ministerial Roundtable’** and will be facilitated by WHO and youth. The Ministers will be asked to discuss how they can strengthen health service capacity to protect health from environmental hazards. Participants will be encouraged to ask questions and also to join in the discussion.

The final part of the session, **‘Health in all policies – Taking stock and learning from experience’** a documentary prepared by WHO will present a number of challenges that are still being faced by the European Region of WHO. Discussion in plenary will allow all participants to understand if enough efforts have been made by the countries in addressing the Budapest Commitments.

More importantly, participants will discuss how health ministries can continue to exert a stewardship role to ensure that health gains are the primary objective of all other national sectors. The discussion will explore how the health agenda can drive national strategies and plans in an influential way. The session will discuss how partnerships with other ministries, departments and sectors can be initiated or strengthened further.

This discussion is not new to the Environment and Health Process in Europe, which has been increasingly active in promoting health in other policies on a national level since the First Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health held in Frankfurt in 1989. However, it was the Third Ministerial Conference held in London in 1999, with the theme of ‘Action in Partnership’ that really drove the message home. On an international level, the establishment of the European Environment and Health Committee in 1994 helped to promote the idea of partnership with other sectors and stakeholders but may not have been strong enough to ensure a leadership role of the health community. Despite this, Health Ministries are still struggling to ensure that improved health is the main concern of all national policies.

Way to go!

Nongovernmental Organisations will report back in plenary on the side event held on 12 June.

Session 3: Towards the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, Italy 2009

This session will start with the presentations from the key supportive bodies of the European Environment and Health Process. In ‘**Renewing the Commitment to Act**’, the Chairpersons of the European Environment and Health Process, and the Chairpersons of the CEHAPE Task Force will present their ideas on how they will support further implementation of the Budapest Commitments. WHO will also present its plan of action to demonstrate how it will continue to provide assistance to the Member States in achieving their aims.

The session will then move into ‘**The Future of the Environment and Health Process**’, during which WHO will present the long term vision for the future, starting by presentation of the theme and agenda of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health of 2009, but also by presenting ideas that will encourage debate on the future beyond this conference.

What about us? Youth involvement in decision-making

In this part of the programme, youth participants will report back on the developments that resulted from the youth side event held on 12 June. They will outline their future plans and explain how the new youth network will work to ensure further involvement in implementing Budapest commitments but also active participation in preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Conference of 2009.

Recommendations and conclusions of the meeting, closure

In this final part of the IMR, participants will discuss in plenary the conclusions of the meeting and endorse a set of recommendations that will facilitate the future work and organisation of the Ministerial Conference of 2009.