



WHO

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

± 62270

EUR/ICP/NEAP 02 05 02(A)
ENGLISH ONLY
UNEDITED
E62270

TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES IN ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

Report of the Second Meeting

Paris, France
19 October 1998

SCHERFIGSVEJ 8
DK-2100 COPENHAGEN Ø
DENMARK

TEL.: +45 39 17 17 17
TELEFAX: +45 39 17 18 18
TELEX: 12000
E-MAIL: POSTMASTER@WHO.DK
WEB SITE: [HTTP://WWW.WHO.DK](http://WWW.WHO.DK)

1999

EUROPEAN HEALTH21 TARGETS 16, 21

EUROPEAN HEALTH21 TARGET 16

MANAGING FOR QUALITY OF CARE

By the year 2010, Member States should ensure that the management of the health sector, from population-based health programmes to individual patient care at the clinical level, is oriented towards health outcomes

(Adopted by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe at its forty-eighth session, Copenhagen, September 1998)

EUROPEAN HEALTH21 TARGET 21

POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH FOR ALL

By the year 2010, all Member States should have and be implementing policies for health for all at country, regional and local levels, supported by appropriate institutional infrastructures, managerial processes and innovative leadership

(Adopted by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe at its forty-eighth session, Copenhagen, September 1998)

ABSTRACT

The Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health will be held in London on 16–18 June 1999. It will focus on approaches and activities that will tangibly improve the environment and health of future generations. The economic dimension of environment and health will be on the Conference agenda; the economy will be dealt with both as a target and as a means for achieving the environmental health policy. The Task Force on Perspectives in Environment and Health was established in order to prepare the initiative to be taken by the Member States of the WHO European Region and international organizations and institutions. The Conference document on economic perspectives in environment and health is intended to be the common product of the key international institutions involved in questions combining economic and environment and health dimensions, such as the EU, OECD, UNECE, UNEP, World Bank and WHO, as well as input from some experts from Member States. The advice of the ministers participating in the Task Force is needed in order to reflect the opinion of those Member States, as well as to assist in formulating the long-term direction of action to be taken. In order to mobilize available resources and knowledge, the Conference is expected to endorse the establishment of a long-term collaborative programme between relevant international organizations and institutions. The meeting specified the scope of the programme of collaboration and the added value of its activities, sketched the organizational and managerial aspects of the programme, prepared a draft ministerial resolution for the Conference and discussed the plan of work until the pre-Conference meeting in Bled, Slovenia on 14–16 February 1999.

Keywords

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
ECONOMICS
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
EUROPE

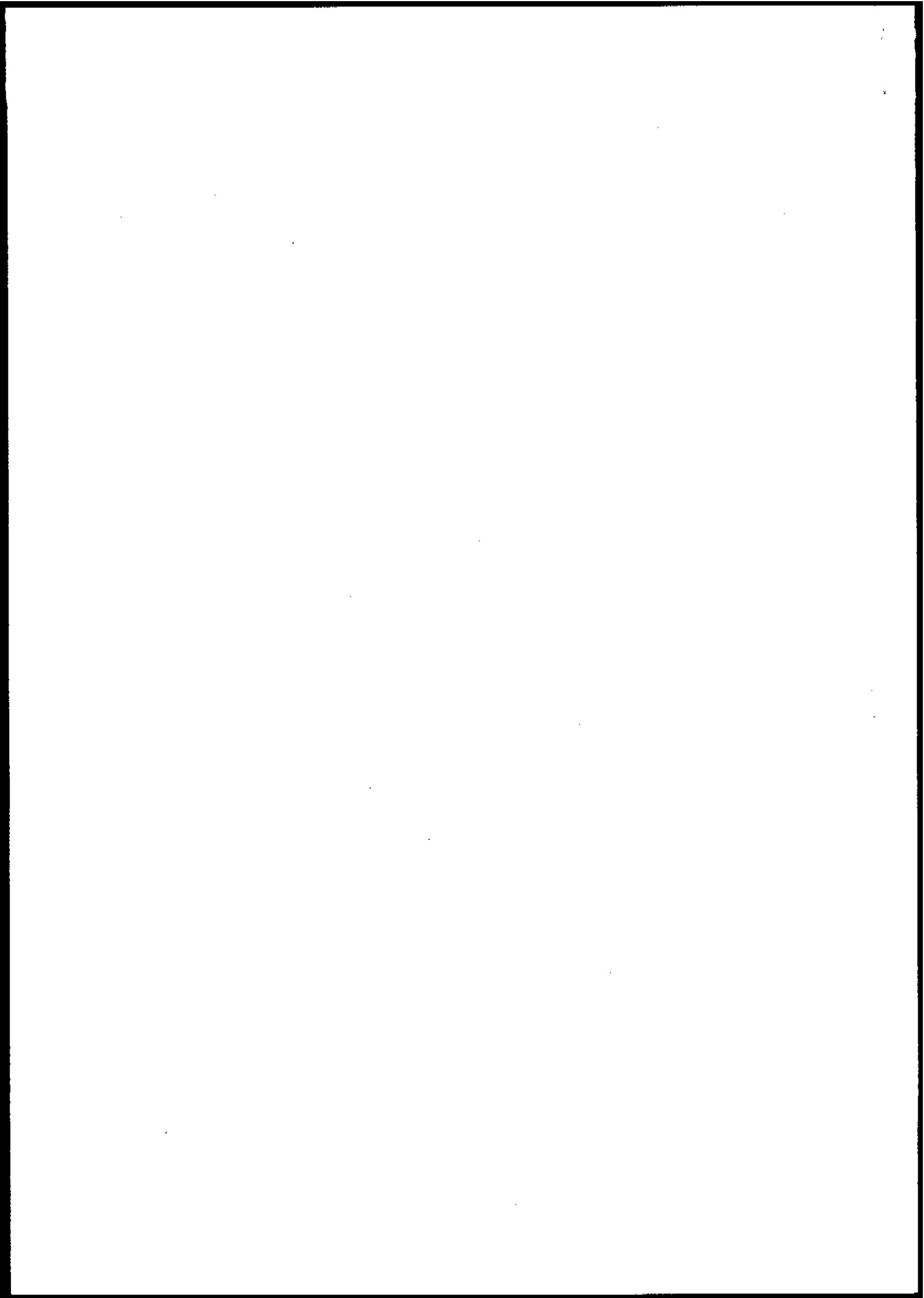
© World Health Organization

All rights in this document are reserved by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The document may nevertheless be freely reviewed, abstracted, reproduced or translated into any other language (but not for sale or for use in conjunction with commercial purposes) provided that full acknowledgement is given to the source. For the use of the WHO emblem, permission must be sought from the WHO Regional Office. Any translation should include the words: *The translator of this document is responsible for the accuracy of the translation.* The Regional Office would appreciate receiving three copies of any translation. Any views expressed by named authors are solely the responsibility of those authors.



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Background: relevance of economics for health and environment authorities.....	1
Activities of the interagency programme	1
International dimension.....	1
Dissemination of knowledge.....	2
Pilot projects and capacity-building.....	2
Themes.....	2
Comments on other documents presented	3
Draft resolution	3
Outcome document	3
Role and interest of the partners.....	3
Structure for cooperation.....	5
Conclusion and timetable proposed.....	5
Annex I Participants	6



This note summarizes the main points outlined by the participants at the meeting of the Task Force on Economics for Environment and Health (Paris, 19 October 1999). It is structured along the main themes addressed: background to the initiative; proposed activities of the programme of interagency collaboration; specific comments on the other documents presented (draft resolution and outcome document); role and interest of the partners; legal structure for cooperation; conclusion and timetable.

The meeting was opened by Professor J. Ménard, Director-General of Health, French Ministry of Health, and Mr J.-L. Laurent, Director-General, Administration and Development, French Ministry of the Environment. It was chaired by Mr J. Hurley, Secretary-General, Finance Department, Ireland, who thanked the French government for their hospitality.

Background: relevance of economics for health and environment authorities

Ministries of the environment and of health share the task of protecting a common heritage with a mandate, among other things, to ensure the integration of environment and health dimensions in economic and social developments. In the European Union (EU) countries, the Amsterdam treaty requests this integration in the fields of transport, agriculture and energy. This implies participation in shaping the regulation, including the economic regulation, of these sectors. Better collaboration is therefore required between the ministries responsible for the relevant economic sectors, as well as with ministries of finance and the economy which are responsible for defining and implementing economic instruments such as taxes.

Environment and health authorities would be better able to do this if they had the capacity for economic analysis. Economic analysis is as useful a tool for them as for other ministries in the preparation of decisions in environment and health. In this perspective, the French Ministry of the Environment has recently taken an initiative to upgrade its own capacity.

Some other countries also recognize that their ministries of the environment and, to a larger extent, their ministries of health, have insufficient capacity for economic analysis. Assessment of the national environment action plan (NEAP) has led OECD to reckon that a major constraint on their work in support of the building and implementation of NEAPs is often the lack of in-country capacity for economic analysis.

Finally, countries of the former Soviet Union and other transition countries that are not part of the EU accession process are in need of more support to improve environmental health. Their health problems and the potential benefits of solving them need to be emphasized and demonstrated to the local decision-makers. Some of the countries of the former Soviet Union also need support and guidance in the establishment and sound management of financial mechanisms for environment and health.

The programme of interagency cooperation should be implementation-oriented and should support moving NEAPs and NEHAPs towards implementation.

Activities of the interagency programme

International dimension

Participants felt that there were several reasons in favour of including an international dimension in some of the activities, such as in the pilot projects.

Firstly, many issues are transboundary (e.g. water use and pollution) and require common understanding in order to be solved. This should be explicitly mentioned as an objective in the programme of cooperation.

Secondly, it is difficult to pinpoint the health impacts of an environmental factor in one country with the epidemiological data from only that country (because of the time-lag between exposition and response, multiple factors, etc.). Cross-country epidemiological data are necessary and must be produced with the same specifications.

Thirdly, intercountry studies could be instrumental in getting a better understanding of the evolution of willingness-to-pay relative to income.

The link between local, regional and global issues has to be worked out. Many solutions to global issues have to be implemented locally.

Dissemination of knowledge

As regards the dissemination of knowledge, international organizations can provide rationale and experience which can help to increase internal motivation for the application of cost recovery or economic instruments.

Information should be provided in a digestible form. It is perhaps possible to use the experience of WHO in communicating on environmental health to local authorities.

Participants debated how to select information for dissemination. As it should be demand driven, they argued that making a systematic review of existing information was much too costly. The same arguments applied to a clearing-house through which everything should be channelled and identified. On the other hand, Member States cannot demand products and knowledge they do not know exist. The Secretariat of the Task Force will draft a new proposal describing a suitable mechanism which should be both manageable and stimulating for countries.

Pilot projects and capacity-building

Participants recalled that pilot projects on integration of economics and environmental health should always meet one or some of the following goals:

- provision to policy-makers of ideas on how to use economic analysis to prepare decisions
- translation of the study into policy change
- implementation of a specific investment project.

This implies that pilot projects should be conducted in countries that express a clear demand and strong commitment to participation.

Regarding capacity-building, participants felt that this should be aimed as much as possible at pilot projects in order to maximize the efficiency of both activities.

Themes

Participants suggested that the programme of collaboration should focus on one or a few themes such as water pollution, air quality, energy consumption, sulfur reduction, and the phasing out of leaded gasoline. There is also the problem of environmental disasters. The approach should be

implementation-oriented and, if relevant, adapted to international conventions and the conclusions of the Århus conference.

Participants also suggested that research should be undertaken for a better economic assessment of some health-related issues, such as noise impacts and modifications in the quality of life, for which economic analysis is still unsatisfactory.

Comments on other documents presented

Draft resolution

In the resolution, there should be recognition of the continuing action at national and international level on the use of economic instruments for environmental policy. The resolution should start by expressing support for the (revised) conference documents.

- paragraph 1 should be rewritten with an emphasis on making better use of resources which will result in health gains, and helping the prioritization of actions in health area;
- paragraph 2 should make a reference to broader policies than just sectoral ones;
- references to "market economy" and "external costs" (paragraph 3) and to subsidies (paragraph 6) should be corrected or deleted;
- paragraph 4, "strengthening the NEHAP" should be replaced by "focusing on key priorities in NEHAP";
- paragraph 8 should be made clearer;
- in point 1, ministers should "invite" rather than "request";
- point 1(a), "undertake" should be replaced by "support" or "participate";
- point 3(c) should be rewritten and nuanced, using the term "proofing" rather than "review".

Most of these comments also apply to the front page of the document describing actions for international cooperation.

Outcome document

The main conference document (outcome document) should not receive substantial modifications, as the countries at the Luxembourg meeting have expressed their appreciation of the present draft. It could be supplemented with more examples.

Role and interest of the partners

The French Ministry of the Environment (ministère de l'environnement et de l'aménagement du territoire – MATE) could be interested in providing intellectual investment and financial support for work, especially research, on issues shared between one or several other countries.

The OECD could provide large amounts of information, economic analysis, etc. that it has already undertaken, but it has no available capacity for reformatting or translating this knowledge. It could also forward any useful methodology and recommend, review and comment on proposals of the programme. In the present circumstances, however, the OECD could not provide additional resources.

Participants were concerned about the risk of duplicating action taken under the "Environment for Europe" process. This relates, in particular, to the work carried out under the auspices of the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for CEE (EAP Task Force), for which the OECD has provided a secretariat for the last five years. The EAP Task Force aims at a better integration of environmental considerations into the reconstruction process, and capacity-building, in central and eastern Europe and the newly independent states (NIS). It also works with bilateral donors and international institutions to promote effective cooperation among partners through exchange of information and development of best practices. Following the Ministerial Conference in Århus in June 1998 the next phase of the work of the EAP Task Force will focus on assisting central and eastern European countries in the process of accession to the EU and supporting the NIS in implementing national environmental action programmes. Finally, the OECD Secretariat suggested that the EAP Task Force could serve as a mechanism to support capacity-building and pilot projects conducted in its sphere of competence.

The UN-ECE are interested in work with an international dimension and would like to see the programme focused on a sector-related theme, such as transport or energy, and/or on a media-related one, such as water or air.

UNEP could join efforts for fund-raising and provide support in kind to the Task Force. UNEP could also look into the practicability of putting its various databases at the disposal of the Task Force for repackaging and dissemination of relevant information.

The World Bank has recently begun an internal knowledge management programme. Participants felt that each organization should work in this direction to make its own knowledge more accessible. Further steps for dissemination of knowledge on economics for environment and health, such as summarizing, translating, compounding and databases, could be managed better at interagency level.

At the World Bank, the Economic Development Institute (EDI) has already wide experience in capacity-building and would be interested in participating in the related activity of the interagency programme. The EDI will organize a workshop on environmental economics in Irkutsk in spring 1999, which could be an opportunity to start the collaboration.

The World Bank could participate in the pilot projects for developing terms of reference, proposals, reviewing or commenting. In some cases, it could also participate on a broader scale in the pilot projects.

On some occasions, the World Bank would appreciate relying on the complementary advantages of other partners, such as WHO for epidemiological issues.

WHO would participate in and make use of the programme of cooperation, especially in the framework of NEHAP implementation. When relevant, it could identify and possibly provide staff with experience in environment and health. WHO has already taken initiatives to identify resources. For instance, the project proposal has been selected and officially sent through the Director-General to the United Nations Foundation for International Partnership (UN-FIP) for funding consideration.

Participants suggested that this programme could be implemented under the guidance of the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC), which is leading the environment and

health process in the European Region and will probably be in charge of the promotion and overview of the decisions made in London in June 1999. It is also in charge of the promotion of cooperation and coordination with the Environment for Europe process.

Structure for cooperation

The chairperson proposed that the legal settings should ensure three principles:

- respect of the independence of participating agencies
- avoidance of duplication with other programmes
- ability to answer the needs from different countries at different stage of development.

Participants felt that it was important that the future structure should ensure the transparency of the decision, be demand-driven, inform the public, and avoid routine.

The structure should also be kept as light as possible but solid enough to be able to play ahead led to a lack of efficiency in many projects. Staff should be hired on a full-time basis to carry out coordination, because no international organization can devote one of its full-time staff to this activity.

Two points need to be clarified: the terms for staff allocation in each organization, and the management of the money raised that is not earmarked to specific countries and themes but will be used for financing actions (pilot projects, trainings, etc.).

The programme of cooperation could work under the EEHC, assuming that the EEHC's mandate will be renewed in London and that the organizations participating in the international programme are also members of the EEHC. Solutions have to take account of other possibilities.

Conclusion and timetable proposed

The participants expressed interest in seeing the programme of cooperation revised according to the comments made during the meeting. A description of how much could be accomplished over the next 4–5 years was also felt useful. The Secretariat will proceed with the revision and circulate the new documents to the participants for final comments and approval.

In preparation for the pre-conference meeting in Bled, the participants also expressed support to the submission of the project to all the Member States. In order to have things ready for London, it would be necessary for the international organizations to go into specific points and come to firm decisions for the Preparatory Conference meeting in Bled.

23–24 November	Meeting of the EEHC in Helsinki
End of December:	Conference documents should go to all countries in the Region
14–16 February 1999	Bled meeting. Final discussion of conference documents for London with countries
June 1999	London Conference. Decision by ministers of the environment and of health.

Annex 1

PARTICIPANTS

Bulgaria

Mrs Evdokia Maneva
Minister of the Environment
Ministry of the Environment
67 William Gladstone Street
BG Sofia 1000

Tel.: +359 2 88 25 77
Fax: +359 2 80 32 24
E-mail: moew@mb.bia-bg.com

France

M. Michel Cohen de Lara
Cellule de Prospective
Ministère de l'environnement
et de l'aménagement du territoire
20 avenue de Ségur
F-75302 Paris 97 SP

Tel.: +33 1 64 15 36 21
Fax: +33 1 64 15 37 64
E-mail: Michel.Cohen-de-
Lara@cergrene.enpc.fr

Mme Marie-Aimée Deana
Ministère de l'environnement
et de l'aménagement du territoire
20 avenue de Ségur
F-75302 Paris 97 SP

Fax: +33 1 42 19 17 72
E-mail: marie-aimée.deana@environnement.
gouv.fr

Mr J.L. Laurent
Directeur général
Administration et développement
Ministère de l'environnement
20 avenue de Ségur
F-75302 Paris 97 SP

Mr Daniel Marchand
Direction générale de la santé
8 avenue de Ségur
F-75350 Paris

Tel.: +33 1 40 56 60 00
Fax: +33 1 46 62 47 21

Professor J. Ménard
Directeur général de la santé
Ministère de l'emploi et de la solidarité
8 avenue de Ségur
F-75350 Paris 07 SP

Tel.: +33 140564040
Fax: +33 140564056

Ireland

Mr Joe Cregan
Principal Officer, Planning and International Unit
Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Dublin 2

Tel.: +353 1 671 4711
Fax: +353 1 671 1947

Mr J. Hurley
Secretary, Department of Finance
Government Buildings
Merrion Street
Dublin 2

Tel.: +353 1 6045620
Fax: +353 1 6785622

Kyrgyzstan

Dr Kulubek Bokonbaev
Minister of Environmental Protection
Ministry of Environmental Protection
131 Isanov street
720033 Bishkek

Tel.: +996 3312 21 48 45
Fax: +996 3312 216 763
E-mail: kulubek@imfiko.bishkek.su

Latvia

Mr Viktors Jaksons
Minister of Health
Ministry of Welfare, Labour and Health
Skolas str. 28
LV-1303 Riga

Tel.: +371 2 270513
Fax: +371 2 276445

Temporary Advisers

Mr Raymond Ellard
Chief Environmental Health Officer
Public Health Division
Department of Health and Children
O'Connell Bridge House
D'Olier Street
Dublin 2

Tel.: +353 1 671 47 11
Fax: +353 1 671 31 64
E-mail: Raymond_Ellard@health.irlgov.ie

Mr David Maddison
Centre for Social and Economic Research
on the Global Environment
University College of London
Gower Street
London WC1E 6BT

Tel.: +44 171 504 52 31
Fax: +44 171 916 27 72
E-mail: uctpb20@ucl.ac.uk

Representatives of Other Organizations

OECD

Mr Brendan Gillespie
2, rue André-Pascal
F-75775 Paris CEDEX 16

E-mail: brendan.gillespie@oecd.org

Mr Michel Potier
Head, Economics Division
15 boulevard Amiral-Bruix
F-75116 Paris

Tel.: +33 1 45 24 93 05
Fax: +33 1 45 24 78 76

UNECE

Dr Mikhail G. Kokine
Environment and Human Settlements Division
Room 319, Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

Tel.: +41 22 917 23 47
Fax: +41 22 907 01 07
E-mail: mikhail.kokine@unece.org

UNEP

Mrs Beatrice Talinjuza Bulwa
Geneva Executive Centre
15 chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine

Tel.: +41 22 979 91 07
Fax: +41 22 979 90 24 or 797 34 20
E-mail: bulwab@unep.ch

World Bank

Mr Bjørn Larsen
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20433

Tel.: +1 202 458 21 53
Fax: +1 202 477 19 81
E-mail: Blarsen@worldbank.org

WHO Regional Office for Europe

Mr Xavier Bonnefoy
Regional Adviser, Environmental Health Planning/Ecology

Mr Laurent Gilotte
Short-term Professional, Environmental Health Planning/Ecology

Mr Günter Klein
Director, Environment and Health

Ms Sandrine Turbide
Programme Assistant, Environmental Health Planning/Ecology