“Environment for Europe” process:

- Outline of the reform process

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“Environment for Europe” process

- Unique partnership of UNECE member States, organizations of the UN system represented in the region, other intergovernmental organizations, RECs, NGOs and other stakeholders
- A mechanism for international environmental governance by providing a platform for delivering multilateral policy and legal instruments
- General objectives are to address environmental problems in the region and to help EECCA and SEE countries to raise their standards towards a similar standard throughout the region.
- UNECE has been closely associated with the Environment for Europe process since the beginning & serves as secretariat.
How does it work?

Governments

International Secretariat (UNECE)

Host Country Secretariat

Non-Governmental Organisations

Financial Institutions

International Organisations

Dobris Castle, 21-23 June 1991
(37 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

Lucerne, 28-30 April 1993
(49 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

Sofia, 23-25 October 1995
(52 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

Aarhus, 23-25 June 1998
(52 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

Kiev, 21-23 May 2003
(51 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)

Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007
(51 countries, EC, various international organizations and NGOs)
Major outcomes:

- 4 assessments on the state of the environment in pan-European region
- Set up institutional mechanisms for cooperation assessment
- A driving force for establishing the MEAs and environmental policy instruments
- Promoting cross-sectoral activities and policy integration
- Joint session of Ministers and NGOs organised within the framework of EfE Conferences

Discussions on the EfE reform

- Starting point: Kiev Conference
- Ongoing discussion on the future of the “Environment for Europe” process during the negotiations of the Belgrade Ministerial Declaration
- Decision on undertaking the reform: Belgrade Ministerial Declaration
Focus of the EfE reform

- The format, focus and priorities of the process and Ministerial Conferences;
- Evaluating the performance and impact of the process;
- Attracting the broader interest and more active engagement of all stakeholders, in particular the private sector;
- Expanding the use of partnerships as vehicles for improving implementation;
- Leveraging external contributions of expertise, manpower and resources;
- Assessing ways and means to promote more effectively the UNECE region-wide dimension of environmental cooperation;
- The full cost of the process and the effective allocation of available resources;
- Future secretariat arrangements

Timeframe for the EfE reform

Before the CEP-15

- January 30, 2008 – CEP Bureau: discussion of possible steps in preparation of the EfE reform plan
- February 1, 2008 – letter to the Governments to request their views on the EfE reform (feedback is expected before 15 February 2008)
- March 2008 – compilation of the views of the Governments on options for the EfE reform
- April 21-23, 2008 – CEP-15 and CEP Bureau: one-day discussion with Governments and major stakeholders of possible options for the EfE reform
Timeframe for the EfE reform

After the CEP-15

- Development of an outline of the EfE reform plan
- October 2008 – draft and circulation of the EfE reform plan
- December 2008/January 2009 – CEP: discussion and adoption of the draft of the EfE reform plan
- Spring 2009 – ECE meeting: endorsement of the EfE reform plan

THANK YOU !