

Ref.: 2021/ECE/070/ENV/027

**INVITATION TO THE FIFTH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON TRANSPORT,  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

**17–18 May 2021, online**

**Vienna, Austria**

Geneva and Copenhagen, 30 March 2021

Excellency,

While we all stand united in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, we already know that tomorrow's environment will be different. The pandemic has impacted every aspect of our lives, with major repercussions for all segments of the economy, including transport. The decision on what "tomorrow" will look like is in our hands. In this context, we need to stimulate a broader re-thinking of transport systems to build forward better and ensure a future with the possibility for safe, healthy, sustainable and resilient mobility in our region.

We wish to refer to the invitation letter from the Austrian Government dated 5 March and co-signed by Ms. Leonore Gewessler, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and Mr. Rudolf Anschober, Federal Minister for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

In this context, we have the honour to invite you to the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment to be held online on 17–18 May 2021. The meeting is organized by the Austrian Government in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and WHO/Europe under the Transport, Health and Environment Pan-European Programme (THE PEP).

THE PEP provides a unique intersectoral and intergovernmental policy platform for the Member States of UNECE and WHO/Europe. It encourages an integrated policy approach whereby the transport, health and environment sectors work together on an equal footing with a view to achieving green and healthy transport and mobility for all in Europe.

The Fifth High-level Meeting will highlight the importance of healthy, active and sustainable transport systems and address synergies in transport and urban planning, health promotion and protection, environmental quality and economic development. The meeting is expected to result in the adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Transport, Health and Environment, focusing on building a better future by promoting the transformation to new,

clean, safe, healthy and inclusive mobility and transport and the adoption of the first pan-European master plan to promote cycling in the region. We are very grateful to the national focal points appointed by Member States to follow the preparations for this event and prepare the political outcome documents that are expected to be adopted at the meeting, and which are available in their latest draft at: <https://thepep.unece.org/>

The Fifth High-level Meeting will be preceded by a special session of the Steering Committee of THE PEP on Monday morning, 17 May. The ministerial segment will open on Monday afternoon, 17 May and will close with the symbolic signing ceremony of the Vienna Declaration on Tuesday afternoon, 18 May.

Furthermore, within the framework of the event, there will be an excellent opportunity for Member States, United Nations entities, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders to organize virtual side events, webinars and exhibitions.

We kindly invite you to nominate participants to the Fifth High-level Meeting. Please do so by providing a list of officially nominated participants to [thepep@un.org](mailto:thepep@un.org) by 30 April. The annotated provisional agenda for the Fifth High-level Meeting is attached for your reference. Further information will be available at <https://thepep.unece.org/>.

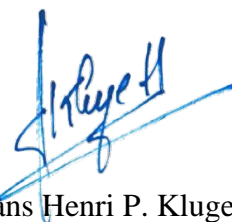
We encourage you to liaise with your counterparts in the other involved ministries to coordinate your country's participation. Please address any questions on the Fifth High-level Meeting to Ms Virginia Fuse ([virginia.fuse@un.org](mailto:virginia.fuse@un.org)) and Ms Nino Sharashidze ([sharashidzen@who.int](mailto:sharashidzen@who.int)).

We look forward to welcoming you virtually to this important international event.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Ms Olga Algayerova  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations  
Economic Commission for Europe



Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge  
Regional Director  
World Health Organization  
Regional Office for Europe

Enclosed: Annotated provisional agenda for the Fifth High-level Meeting on Transport, Health and Environment