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Economic Commission for Europe

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Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Water and Health to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

Compliance Committee

Twentieth meeting

Geneva, 2 November 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twentieth meeting*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on
Monday, 2 November 2020, at 10 a.m.**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications.
3. Review of compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates.
4. Consultation Process.
5. Facilitating compliance with the obligations under the Protocol.
6. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure.
7. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

** As part of the accreditation procedures for meetings at the United Nations Office at Geneva, delegates are requested to register online for the meeting, as soon as possible and **no later than 19 October 2020**, through the following link: www.unece.org/index.php?id=52844. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 14 (see the map on the Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). Please allow sufficient time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.



II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 2 November, 10.00–10.05 a.m.

1. The Compliance Committee will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications

Tentative timing: Monday, 2 November, 10.05–10.30 a.m.

2. In accordance with the procedures set out in decision I/2, annex, paragraphs 13–22, the Committee is expected to consider:

- (a) Any submission by Parties relating to specific issues of compliance;
- (b) Any referral by the joint secretariat relating to specific issues of compliance;
- (c) Any communication from the public relating to specific issues of compliance.

3. Review of compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates

Tentative timing: Monday, 2 November, 10.30–11.30 a.m.

3. At its fifth session (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019), the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted decision V/1 on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.2–EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.2), which notes with concern that, by failing to establish and publish national and/or local targets and dates for achieving them, several Parties are not in compliance with article 6, paragraphs 2 to 5, of the Protocol and requests Parties to communicate their targets to the joint secretariat for wider dissemination. Further to that decision, at its nineteenth meeting (Geneva (online), 15 May 2020), the Committee requested the secretariat to contact informally or through an official letter those Parties that had not communicated their targets, namely Albania; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Montenegro; Portugal; and Spain, to ask them to provide information about their progress in the target-setting processes.

4. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the responses received from the above-mentioned Parties. Based on this information, the Committee will discuss its next steps, as well as possibly other issues related to target setting, as appropriate.

4. Consultation Process

Tentative timing: Monday, 2 November, 11.30 a.m. –1 p.m.

5. At its nineteenth meeting, the Committee discussed the situation with setting of targets and target dates in the Russian Federation and considered that the country might benefit from tailored advice and assistance by the Committee in the framework of the Consultation Process. It requested the secretariat to explore, in September 2020, whether the country would be interested in taking part in the consultations with the Committee.

6. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the information received from the Russian Federation. The Committee will then discuss its next steps in this regard, as relevant.

5. Facilitating compliance with the obligations under the Protocol

Tentative timing: Monday, 2 November, 3–4.40 p.m.

7. Pursuant to paragraph 1, (a) and (b) of decision I/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3, annex, para. 1 (b)), the

Committee is entrusted with “facilitating, promoting and aiming to secure compliance with the obligations under the Protocol, with a view to preventing disputes ... [by] providing advice or assistance to Parties”. In the light of the above, and acting within its competence to examine compliance issues and make recommendations or take measures as appropriate, at its nineteenth meeting, the Committee decided to work on an interpretive note to clarify the provisions of the Protocol related to water, environment, sanitation and hygiene in the light of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, while also focusing on the public health dimension of the Protocol.

8. The Committee will discuss the extended outline of the note to be prepared by Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque as the rapporteur for coordinating the development of the note and agree on the next steps in developing the document.

6. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure

Tentative timing: Monday, 2 November, 4.40–5.40 p.m.

9. The Chair of the Committee will introduce the summary of the interpretive note “The provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health and their relationship with the European Union law governing water and health” (ECE/MP.WH/2019/5/Add.1–EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/11/Add.1), that he developed with support of the secretariat. The Committee will discuss the finalization of the summary and ways to ensure its wider circulation for communication and awareness-raising purposes.

10. The Committee will then discuss concrete initiatives and specific steps to be taken to raise awareness of the compliance procedure. The Committee members and the secretariat will report on their recent or planned efforts to present the compliance procedure at various forums and events, as well as to promote it within the network of non-governmental organizations active in the areas of water, sanitation, hygiene and public health as well as human rights, migrants and refugees.

11. In this relation, the secretariat will inform about the planned webinar aiming at highlighting the legal dimension of work under the Protocol to be organized in the framework of a series of thematic webinars under the Protocol aimed at raising awareness of its relevance for response to and future preparedness for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

7. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings

Tentative timing: Monday, 2 November, 5.40–5.50 p.m.

12. The Committee will discuss its future programme of work and agree on issues for consideration at its next meetings. The Committee will also agree on the dates of its twenty-first and twenty-second meetings.

8. Other business

Tentative timing: Monday, 2 November, 5.50–5.55 p.m.

13. Committee members wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Adoption of the report

Tentative timing: Monday, 2 November, 5.55–6 p.m.

14. The Committee will agree on the modalities for the preparation and adoption of the report on its twentieth meeting.