

Decision IV/4

Strengthening subregional cooperation

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling its decision III/5 on strengthening subregional cooperation,

Having considered the outcome of the workshops on subregional cooperation in South-Eastern Europe and the Baltic Sea area,

Recognizing that subregional cooperation promotes the regular exchange of information within the subregion and improves the practical application of the Convention,

Recognizing also that bilateral and multilateral agreements facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention,

Wishing to encourage the development of bilateral and multilateral agreements through subregional cooperation under the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the signing by the countries of South-Eastern Europe of the subregional agreement implementing the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2008/8, annex);
2. *Welcomes* the reports prepared by the lead countries for the workshops on subregional cooperation, as made available on the website of the Convention;
3. *Proposes* that activities on subregional cooperation should be included in the workplan;
4. *Invites* Parties and non-Parties, especially in Central Asia and around the Black Sea, to host workshops or take other appropriate measures to promote cooperation in their subregions;
5. *Also invites* Parties to nominate lead countries on subregional cooperation, where appropriate, and further invites these lead countries to consider ways to coordinate their activities;
6. *Requests* lead countries to prepare a one-page summary of the findings of each workshop held for inclusion in a report on subregional cooperation;
7. *Encourages* Parties to develop bilateral or multilateral agreements and report to the Meeting of the Parties accordingly.