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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
First meeting
(Oslo, 18-20 May 1998)
(Item 6 of the provisional agenda)

DRAFT DECISION TO BE TAKEN AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Submitted by the delegation of Norway

DECISION I/2

MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND MANDATE OF THE BUREAU

The Meeting,

Having considered the most appropriate ways of effectively implementing the Convention and successfully taking forward its work-plan,

1. Establishes a subsidiary body, called the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment, to assist in the implementation of the Convention and the management of the work-plan;
2. Requests this subsidiary body to take the necessary steps to implement the work-plan agreed at the first meeting of the Parties, and to report to them at their second and subsequent meetings on progress in implementing the work-plan, and to ensure the efficient management of any work-plan which may from time to time be agreed by them;

3. Invites the subsidiary body, in the light of its experience with implementing the work-plan, to make recommendations for consideration at the second and subsequent meetings of the Parties on further work on, inter alia, legal, administrative and technical aspects, necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention and international cooperation in Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context, bearing in mind the special needs of countries in transition;

4. Invites ECE member countries non-Parties to the Convention, governmental, non-governmental and other relevant international organizations and institutions to contribute fully as observers to the work undertaken by the subsidiary body to implement the Convention;

5. Agrees on the mandate of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties as annexed to this decision.

Annex

MANDATE OF THE BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

The Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties shall consist of the President and one or more Vice-President(s) of the Meeting of the Parties, and, as observers, the Chairperson of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment. The Bureau shall, with the assistance of the secretariat:

- (a) Carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Meeting of the Parties;
- (b) Coordinate relevant activities regarding the implementation of the work-plan, as adopted by the Meeting of the Parties;
- (c) Take the necessary initiatives to strengthen the application of the Convention, including the preparation of draft decisions and recommendations, for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties; and
- (d) Maintain liaison with the bureaux of governing bodies of other conventions, international organizations, environmental policy-making bodies and non-governmental organizations.