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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
Second meeting
(Sofia, 26-27 February 2001)
(Item 2 (xi) of the provisional agenda)

DRAFT DECISION TO BE TAKEN AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PARTIES
Submitted by the Working Group

**DECISION II/11
ADOPTION OF THE WORK-PLAN**

The Meeting,

Recalling Articles 9 and 11, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, stipulating that further research as well as additional action that may be required to achieve the purposes of the Convention shall be undertaken,

Recognizing that it is essential for Parties to meet fully their legal obligations arising under the Convention,

Recognizing also that Parties should strive to go beyond their mere legal obligations and should take action to maximize the effectiveness of their application of the Convention so that the best possible practical results are achieved,

Recalling decision [II/9] on strategic environmental assessment,

GE.00-33430

Recognizing the need to strengthen cooperation with other conventions,

1. Adopts the work-plan for the period up to its third meeting, as annexed to this decision;
2. Suggests that lead countries which carry out the relevant activities should consult each other in order to avoid overlap;
3. Calls on the Parties and invites non-Parties to arrange, host and participate actively in task forces and meetings in order to facilitate the implementation of the Convention;
4. Invites every relevant body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, to participate actively in the activities included in the work-plan.

Annex

WORK-PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE PERIOD 2001 TO 2003

1. REVIEWS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Objective: Parties and non-Parties will submit information on recent developments in their implementation of the Convention.

Method of work: A draft review will be considered at the third meeting of the Parties to review the implementation of the Convention.

Organizational aspects: The secretariat will prepare a draft review based on the information provided by Parties and non-Parties pursuant to the reporting system adopted by the Working Group, for discussion and possible adoption at the third meeting of the Parties.

Time schedule: The draft review will be prepared in 2003 and incorporate the information received for consideration at the third meeting of the Parties, at least nine months before this third meeting.

2. REPORTING SYSTEM

Objective: The Implementation Committee will prepare recommendations for a revision of the questionnaire used for reporting for future reviews of the implementation of the Convention. The capacity and technical possibilities of the Enimpas database will be used in the reporting system. The objective is to improve the questionnaire so that it provides information on how the obligations of the Convention have been complied with, both at the general level and by particular Parties. The Committee will also consider whether any further steps might be recommended to improve the monitoring of, and compliance with, the obligations arising under the Convention.

Method of work: The delegation of the United Kingdom will act as lead country, with the assistance of the secretariat. The Implementation Committee established by the Meeting of the Parties in accordance with decision [II/4] will meet with a view to preparing its recommendation.

Organizational aspects: The Committee will present its recommendation for a new reporting mechanism at the fourth meeting of the Working Group.

Time schedule: to be specified.

3. STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH OTHER ECE CONVENTIONS

Objective: To strengthen cooperation between the Convention and the other ECE conventions with the aim of further strengthening their implementation and application and in particular to further improve the application of environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context.

Method of work: On the basis of national and regional experiences and research:

(a) To compile and analyse relevant information taking into account document MP.EIA/WG.1/2000/10 and furthermore to study the relationship with the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

(b) To identify opportunities for improving the application of the Convention inter alia to public participation, content requirements for EIA documentation, risk assessment, post-project analysis and monitoring.

Organizational aspects: [...] will act as lead country, with the assistance of the secretariat, and will organize a workshop to identify areas for cooperation in the application of the Convention and other UN/ECE environmental conventions. A report with proposals on how to improve the application of environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context through the provisions of the conventions will be presented to the Working Group for consideration and thereafter at the third meeting of the Parties for possible adoption.

Time schedule: to be specified.

4. GUIDELINES ON GOOD PRACTICE AND ON BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Objective: On the basis of document MP.EIA/WG.1/2000/7/Rev.1 and MP.EIA/WG.1/2000/6/Rev.1 to discuss the experience and review and update guidelines on the practical application of the Convention and on the preparation of bilateral or multilateral agreements.

Method of work: Based on the previous work (see documents above) and giving also attention to the work under item "Subregional cooperation" in the work-plan, the experience in the practical application and in bilateral or multilateral agreements will be discussed at workshops and the guidelines will be updated.

Organizational aspects: Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands will act as lead countries, with the assistance of the secretariat. A report containing the guidelines with relevant background information (compendium) will be presented to the Working Group for consideration and thereafter to the Parties at their third meeting for possible adoption.

Time schedule: to be specified.

5. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Objective: To prepare a legally binding protocol on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to the Convention.

Method of work: On the basis of relevant national and international experience, a draft protocol on SEA will be prepared by the open-ended ad hoc Working Group on the Protocol.

Organizational aspects: The Working Group, with the assistance of the secretariat, will prepare a draft protocol in accordance with decision [II/9] and present for possible adoption at an extraordinary meeting of the Parties to be held in conjunction with the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Kiev, Ukraine, 2003).

Time schedule: Spring 2001 - Spring 2003.

6. SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION

Objective: To support the application of environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context through the provisions of the Convention, in particular in countries in transition: central and eastern Europe and the newly independent States.

Method of work: Workshops, seminars, training courses, etc. will be organized, and guidelines and other material will be produced, in order to introduce or improve EIA systems and practice, covering the specific needs of countries in transition, in particular with regard to methodological support.

Organizational aspects: Croatia and Poland will act as lead countries, with the assistance of the secretariat. Poland will provide a facility enabling countries in transition to address their needs regarding transboundary EIA. Workshops and other activities will be organized in central and eastern Europe and the newly independent States, with the participation of experts from the countries of these regions, as well as from other countries in line with paragraph 14 of the Oslo Ministerial Declaration. Support will be sought from different sources for specific regions.

Time schedule: to be specified.

7. DATABASE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Objective: To allow an exchange of information on matters related to EIA in a transboundary context and to provide support to Parties and non-Parties in the establishment and

maintenance of a system of networking, by setting up, as a central resource, a computer database, accessible to users through the Internet in order to strengthen the application of EIA in a transboundary context in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

Method of work: The lead country will maintain the database on environmental impact assessment up to the third meeting of the Parties.

Organizational aspects: Poland will act as lead country, with the assistance of the secretariat, in particular in relation to the translation of information. For the next meeting of the Parties, Poland will prepare a report analysing the use of the database.

Time schedule: to be specified.

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

Objective: To assess the effectiveness of the Convention in the light of developments, at national and international levels, in the field of environmental impact assessment.

Method of work: To review and analyse the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with [decision II/10].

Organizational aspects: A task force with Italy as lead country will organize meetings with the aim of preparing a report on its findings, including possible amendments and supporting rationale, for consideration by the Working Group and thereafter to the Parties at their third meeting for possible adoption.

Time schedule: to be specified.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN EIA IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

Objective: To develop further the draft guidance on public participation as included in decision [II/3] with the aim of improving its practical application under the Convention.

Method of work: Parties and non-Parties will be requested to provide case studies on public participation in EIA in a transboundary context to be analysed by the lead country [countries].

Organizational aspects: ...[and]...will act as lead country [ies], with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a final version of the draft guidance on public participation in a transboundary context based on information to be provided by Parties and non-Parties .

Time schedule: to be specified.