



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
Second meeting
(Sofia, 26-27 February 2001)
(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

DRAFT DECISION TO BE TAKEN AT THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PARTIES
Submitted by the delegation of Bulgaria

**DECISION II/14
AMENDMENT TO THE ESPOO CONVENTION**

The Meeting,

Wishing to modify the Espoo Convention with a view to clarifying that the public that may participate in procedures under the Convention includes civil society and, in particular, non-governmental organizations,

Recalling paragraph 13 of the Oslo Declaration of the Ministers of the Environment and the European Community Commissioner for the Environment assembled at Oslo on the occasion of the first meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention,

Wishing to allow States situated outside the UN/ECE region to become Parties to the Convention,

1. Adopts the following amendments to the Convention:
 - (a) At the end of Article 1 (x), after persons insert:

and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organizations or groups
 - (b) In Article 17, after paragraph 2, insert a new paragraph:

3. Any other State, not referred to in paragraph 2 above, that is a Member of the United Nations may accede to the Convention upon approval by the Meeting of the Parties.
and renumber the remaining paragraphs.
 - (c) At the end of Article 17, insert a new paragraph:

7. Any State that ratifies, accepts or approves this Convention shall be deemed simultaneously to ratify, accept or approve the amendment to the Convention set out in [decision II/14] taken at the second meeting of the Parties.
2. Decides that notwithstanding the provisions of Article 14, paragraph 4 of the Convention, this amendment shall not enter into force until the ninetieth day after it has been ratified, approved or accepted by all States and regional economic integration organizations that were Parties to the Convention at the time of the adoption of this decision.