



**Economic and Social
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Compliance Committee
(Third meeting, Geneva, 22-23 January 2004)

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 22 January 2004^{1, 2}

1. Adoption of the agenda

Under this agenda item, NGOs present at the meeting as observers will be invited to raise points for consideration by the Committee, which the Committee will endeavour to incorporate in its agenda, time permitting (see MP.PP/C.1/2003/4, para. 28). Such points should not include issues which are or are expected to become the subject of, or which should more appropriately be addressed by means of, a communication from the public in accordance with chapter VI of the annex to decision I/7.

¹ The present document has been submitted late due to difficulties in completing the necessary consultation process.

² New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to duly complete the attached registration form, also available from the web site of the Aarhus Convention at <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/compliance.htm>, and then to transmit it to the Aarhus Convention secretariat, **at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting**, either by fax +41 22 917 01 07 or by e-mail to the following address isabelle.labre@unece.org. Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) to pick up their identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the Aarhus Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 42 26.

2. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Committee

The secretariat will report on the main points of the discussion on the compliance mechanism which took place at the first meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, other than points relating to other items on this agenda. The Committee may wish to discuss its relationship with the Working Group of the Parties.

The Secretary to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution has been invited to brief the Meeting on recent developments with the Implementation Committee to that Convention.

The Secretary to the Espoo Convention has also been invited to brief the Committee on the progress in developing a compliance mechanism under that Convention, including the handling of the case raised by the Ukrainian organization Eco-Pravo Lviv (see MP.PP/C.1/2003/4, para. 7).

The secretariat will report on a conference on Civil Society, International Tribunals and Compliance Bodies which was held in Milan (Italy) on 24-25 October 2003.

The Committee will be invited to share any other relevant information.

3. Submissions by Parties concerning other Parties

Under this agenda item, the Committee is expected to consider, in accordance with the relevant procedures, any submission made by a Party concerning another Party's compliance with its obligations under the Convention, as provided for under paragraph 15 of the annex to decision I/7.

4. Submissions by Parties concerning their own compliance

Under this agenda item, the Committee is expected to consider, in accordance with the relevant procedures, any submission made by a Party concerning its own compliance with the obligations under the Convention, as provided for under paragraph 16 of the annex to decision I/7.

5. Referrals by the secretariat

Under this agenda item, the Committee is expected to consider, in accordance with the relevant procedures, any referral made by the secretariat concerning possible non-compliance by a Party with its obligations under the Convention, as provided for under paragraph 17 of the annex to decision I/7.

6. Communications from members of the public

Under this agenda item, the Committee is expected to consider, in accordance with the relevant procedures, any communications received from the public, as provided for under chapter VI of the annex to decision I/7.

The secretariat is developing a database with information on submissions, referrals and communications, and will give a demonstration of the database in pilot form.

The Committee may wish to react to a comment made at the first meeting of the Working Group of the Parties concerning the wording used in the final paragraph point in the 'Key Points' box of the information sheet (see MP.PP/WG.1/2003/2, para. 35).³

7. Screening and rapid appraisal of cases

The Committee may wish to exchange ideas on the possibilities for developing and adopting a framework and an approach for light and standardized screening and rapid appraisal of cases, and to decide upon appropriate action (see MP.PP/C.1/2003/4, para. 22).

8. Reporting regime for Parties

The Committee is charged under decision I/7, paragraph 13 (c), with the task of monitoring, assessing and facilitating the implementation of and compliance with the reporting requirements under article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention. The Committee is expected to discuss its role in relation to the reporting regime and to decide upon any actions required with respect to the first reporting cycle, using as a basis an informal paper to be prepared by the secretariat.

The Committee is also expected to discuss, on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the secretariat, the content of a letter to be sent to the Working Group of the Parties proposing that the Working Group should issue a recommendation to the Parties stressing the importance of timely and comprehensive national reports.

9. Resources

The Committee is expected to take note of the reaction of the Working Group of the Parties to the letter sent by the Chairman to the Chairman of the Working Group concerning the future resource requirements of the compliance mechanism (MP.PP/WG.1/2003/2, para. 56) and consider whether any further action is needed on this point at this stage.

10. Role of the members of the Committee in subsidiary bodies

Under this item, the Committee will be invited to discuss whether there should be any informal guideline on whether or in what circumstances a Committee member should be able to participate as a member of or adviser to a delegation (governmental or non-governmental) to the Meeting of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies.

³ The relevant extract from the information sheet reads as follows: "Communications to the Committee may concern either general failure by a Party to introduce the necessary legislative, regulatory and other measures to implement the Convention; specific deficiencies in the measures taken; or (bearing in mind the point about domestic remedies) specific instances of a person's rights under the Convention being violated; or a combination of these." The concern raised at the Working Group's meeting was that the reference to specific instances of a person's rights under the Convention being violated could mislead members of the public into thinking that the compliance procedure was a redress procedure for specific violations of their rights.

11. Programme of work and calendar of meetings for 2004
12. Any other business
13. Adoption of the report



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3rd meeting of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (22-23 January 2004)

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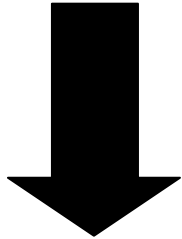
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