

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
20 November 2013
English
Original: English, French and
Russian

Economic Commission for Europe**World Health Organization
Regional Office for Europe**

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Water and Health to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

Second session

Bucharest, 23–25 November 2010

Report of the Meeting of the Parties on its second session**Addendum****Decision II/1
General issues of compliance**

The Meeting of the Parties,

Considering its decision I/2 on the review of compliance,

Welcoming the progress made by the Compliance Committee in establishing its procedures as well as in addressing general issues of compliance,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Compliance Committee to the Meeting of the Parties and endorsing its findings (ECE/MP.WH/2010/3-EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/9),

Setting targets in accordance with the article 6 of the Protocol

1. *Recognizes* that by failing to establish and publish national and/or local targets and dates for achieving them several Parties are not in compliance with article 6, paragraphs 2 to 5, of the Protocol;

2. *Urges* Parties therefore to speed up and finalize the process of target setting and, in doing so, recommends making use of the existing guidance material, in particular the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*;¹

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 10.II.E.12.

3. *Recommends* that Parties establish a strong mechanism for coordination between water, health and other concerned authorities as the key prerequisite for an effective implementation of the Protocol, and that Parties involve their national coordination mechanism in the preparation of the summary reports;

4. *Calls on* Parties that are members of the European Union (EU) to build on the synergies between the Protocol and EU legislation, in particular to make use of the Protocol and the target-setting process to comply with EU directives;

5. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Protocol cannot be limited to the transposition of EU legislation and encourages EU Parties to implement the Protocol beyond EU legislation, for instance by setting targets in areas which are not regulated by EU legislation;

6. *Stresses* that targets set under the Protocol should be clear and measurable to allow Parties to keep under scrutiny the progress achieved;

Reporting under the Protocol in accordance with the article 7

7. *Underlines* the importance of complying with the Protocol's reporting requirements, including the importance of timeliness of reporting, and recognizes that failure to submit summary reports or to submit reports within the specified deadlines constitutes non-compliance with the article 7 of the Protocol;

8. *Recalls* that summary reports are an important tool for the exchange of experience between Parties and the promotion of harmonized progress in implementing the Protocol in the region;

9. *Recommends*, therefore, that in future reporting exercises Parties follow the adopted template for reporting, that they provide clear and accurate answers to all the questions in it and, when omitting information, specify the reasons for the omission, and that they include information on the measures implemented to reach the targets, the challenges encountered in the process and the progress achieved;

10. *Requests* those Parties that failed to submit their national implementation reports to submit their reports to the joint secretariat, inter alia, for forwarding to the Committee, by 28 February 2011;

11. *Commends* those non-Parties that have submitted summary reports and welcomes the participation of those and other non-Parties in the future reporting cycles;

Public participation

12. *Recognizes* the importance of access to information and public participation for an effective implementation of the Protocol together with the widespread difficulties of Parties in complying with the relevant Protocol obligations, in particular related to the participation of the public in setting targets and target dates;

13. *Requests* Parties to undertake coordinated efforts with a view to facilitating implementation of the provisions related to public participation, and in particular on involving the public in the process of target setting;

Facilitative role of the Committee

14. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee to respond to a situation of general non-compliance by providing advice and assistance to Parties with a view to facilitating, promoting and securing their compliance with the obligations under the Protocol;

15. *Supports* the decision of the Committee to enter into consultations with a number of Parties, which, on the basis of the national summary reports, appear to have problems in implementing the Protocol, recognizing that through such consultations the Committee aims to offer effective, tailor-made advice to implement and apply the Protocol's provisions of a scientific, technical, legal and administrative nature and that the consultations are not of an inquisitive nature nor seek to ascertain or declare whether a Party is in non-compliance;

16. *Encourages* Parties having difficulties with compliance to approach the Committee and to express interest in engaging in that procedure;

Working methods of the Committee

17. *Welcomes* the way in which the Committee has been working and the procedures that it has developed, as reflected in the reports of its meetings;

18. *Recognizes* the need for clear information for the public on the compliance mechanism and therefore welcomes the guidelines on communications from the public elaborated by the Committee.
