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Economic Commission for Europe

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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

Third session

Oslo, 25–27 November 2013

Report of the Meeting of the Parties on its third session

Addendum

Decision III/1 on general issues of compliance

The Meeting of the Parties,

Considering its decision I/2 on the review 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/2013/4-EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/08),

1. *Requests* the Working Group on Water and Health through the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting to consider the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*,¹ as well as the guidelines and template for summary reports,² and to introduce appropriate changes therein with a view to addressing the issues raised by the Compliance Committee in paragraphs 55, 77, 88, 89, 105 and 106 of the Committee's report, which shall be applied for the next reporting cycle and presented at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties;

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.E.12. Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>.

² As contained in document ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.5-EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/7, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its second session (see ECE/MP.WH/4-EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/06).

GE.14-20316



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Setting targets in accordance with the article 6 of the Protocol

2. *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;

3. *Urges* Parties, especially those which have been in a situation of non-compliance for a considerable time, 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*;

4. *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 also recommends that Parties involve their national coordination mechanism in the preparation of the summary reports;

5. *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;

6. *Also 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 that are not regulated or addressed in a sufficiently concrete manner by EU legislation;

7. *Stresses* in relation to the targets that:

(a) Targets should be clear and measurable to allow Parties to keep under scrutiny the progress achieved;

(b) Parties should explicitly indicate that targets have been set under the Protocol;

(c) Targets should be communicated to the joint secretariat for wider dissemination;

(d) When a target has been reached, Parties should consider whether to establish a new target or to maintain the present level and report accordingly in their summary reports;

(e) In line with article 5, Parties should apply as appropriate a cost-benefit analysis and the polluter-pays principle when setting targets;

Reporting under the Protocol in accordance with the article 7

8. *Emphasizes*, in line with paragraph 7 of decision II/1, the importance of the timeliness of reporting, and recognizes that the failure to submit summary reports or to submit reports within the specified deadlines constitutes non-compliance with the article 7 of the Protocol;

9. *Reiterates* the importance of using the adopted guidelines and template for reporting, including in respect of the length of reports, providing clear and accurate answers to all the questions and, when omitting information, specifying the reasons for the omission, using the suggested baseline year to the extent possible, and including 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 2014;

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;

12. *Requests* Parties to involve all relevant stakeholders in the reporting process in accordance with the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting* adopted by the Meeting of the Parties;

Public participation

13. *Recognizes* the importance of access to information and public participation for the effective implementation of the Protocol, as well as 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;

14. *Urges* Parties to comply with the provisions related to public participation in the process of target setting;

15. *Encourages* Parties to involve the public when preparing their summary reports;

16. *Invites* Parties to make use of the *Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health* (ECE/MP.WH/9) developed under the Protocol;

Facilitative role of the Committee

17. *Endorses* the rules established by the Compliance Committee governing the Consultation Process;

18. *Supports* the decision of the Committee that it may, based on its assessment of the results of the second reporting exercise under the Protocol or other information available to the Committee, invite a Party or a small group of Parties having identical or almost identical implementation problems to engage in a consultation;

19. *Encourages* Parties facing challenges in implementing the Protocol to engage in discussions with the Committee on the opportunities offered by the Consultation Process.
