



Opening the Convention for accession by UN MS beyond the ECE region

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CoP 8: WGD mandate

CoP 8:

- Requested the WGD to continue thoroughly considering all aspects related to the opening (including possible budgetary implications) and to
- Present the outcome at CoP 9
- Stressed the importance of addressing the opening at the same time as the revisions to the other provisions of the Convention as a package
- Requested that a draft amendment to the Convention covering those issues be presented for its review and possible adoption at CoP 9 in 2016





The current situation in ECE

MEAs Open to all UN member States:

Open since they entered into force:

- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)
- Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs)
- Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA)
- Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters (Protocol on Civil Liability, not in force)





The current situation in ECE

MEAs Open to all UN member States:

Amendment adopted for opening outside the ECE

- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) (2001, entry into force in 2014)
- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) (2003, entry into force in 2014)

MEAs in which no decision was taken to open outside the ECE region

- Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
- Protocol on Water and Health





Possible benefits and challenges

- Enhanced levels of industrial safety in a transboundary context
- Improved institutional, administrative, legal frameworks
- International sustainable development commitments
- Enriched exchange of experiences and good practices
- Awareness, Outreach, partnerships
- Organizational and budgetary implications
 - ➔ New financing opportunities?





Awareness, outreach, partnerships

- Increased awareness at political level
- Increased visibility among other communities, and public
- Potential new strategic partnerships
- Potential new funding opportunities e.g. from Ministries of foreign affairs, Development cooperation agencies
- Experience of other ECE MEAs demonstrates increased interest by Foreign Affairs, and increased visibility at the global level





Considerations concerning a global convention

The ILC of the General Assembly and the UN General Assembly have been discussing since **1978** issues closely related to the text of the Convention and the Protocol on Civil Liability.

Current status:

No agreement on whether an international convention should be elaborated





Interest in ECE MEAs from beyond the region

- **Aarhus Convention and the PRTRs Protocol:**
UN member states from outside the ECE took part to meetings and activities
Mongolia and Morocco officially expressed their interest in being Party to the Convention
- **Water Convention:**
More than 50 UN countries from outside the ECE participated to meetings and activities
Iraq and Tunisia officially expressed their interest in being Party to the Convention
- **Espoo Convention:**
UN member states from outside the ECE took part to meetings and activities
No country officially expressed interest in joining the Convention at the time of writing





Financing and organization of activities on opening by ECE MEAs

Aarhus Convention:

- 2 related workplan items:
 - Accession to the Convention by States from outside the ECE region
 - Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments
- Ad-hoc financing for travel of experts or secretariat to the countries
- Mainly trust fund financing and ad-hoc specific financing
- Actions implemented only upon availability of resources
- Limited activities due to lack of dedicated financing for opening
- Interested countries and ECLAC also invited to MoPs





Financing and organization of activities on opening by ECE MEAs

Water Convention:

- Two workplan areas: Promotion of the Convention and Opening of the Convention to countries outside the ECE
- Financing of the two areas: earmarked contributions from MFAs and development cooperation, some from GEF
- Workload for two areas is substantial under the Convention, but depends on the interests of countries and availability of funds (both are high)
- Partnerships: GEF, other regional commissions and numerous international organizations dealing with water issues at global level
- Financing from global sources has benefited core workplan activities and Convention's implementation including in ECE region





Financing and organization of activities on opening by ECE MEAs

Espoo Convention:

Elements of the Workplan that include involvement of Non-ECE countries:

1. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building (...) between the Parties and others, including States outside the ECE region
2. Exchange of good practices
3. Global application of the Convention and the Protocol: focus on non-ECE countries and IFIs.
4. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA

Financial arrangements:

- Ad-hoc use of trust fund resources or additional financing, formal MoP decision that the Bureau decides on priorities based on the availability of funds
- Additional resources for activities from (co-)organisers





Need to keep in mind the timeframe

- Art. 26 of the Convention:
Amendments adopted in accordance with this Article shall enter into force for Parties that have accepted them on the ninetieth day following the day of receipt by the Depositary of the **sixteenth** instrument of ratification, acceptance or appr
- → **16 Parties need to ratify** the amendment before the opening of the Convention could enter into force
- It is thus expected that it will take several years before the amendment envisaged to be adopted by CoP-9 in 2016 will enter into force





Thank you for your attention

<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.html>

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