

Economic Commission for Europe
Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

**Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment
and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Seventh meeting

Geneva, 28–30 May 2018

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Compliance and implementation

**Draft decision IS/1b on compliance by Armenia with its
obligations under the Convention with regard to the
construction of a nuclear power plant in Metsamor**

Proposal by the Implementation Committee¹

This note presents draft decision IS/1b of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its intermediary session (Geneva, 5–7 February 2019) on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention with regard to the construction of a nuclear power plant in Metsamor. As mandated by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Minsk, 13–16 June 2017), the Implementation Committee prepared the draft decision based on its review of the relevant paragraphs of draft decision VII/2 and taking into account the progress made before, during and after the seventh session. As suggested by the delegation of Ukraine in June 2017, the Committee decided to present the general and the country specific draft decisions in separate documents to facilitate their subsequent consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

The Chair of the Committee will present the draft decision for information to the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. The delegates may wish to present their views on the draft.

¹ The present decision relates to the submission by Azerbaijan having concerns about Armenia's compliance with its obligations under the Convention (reference EIA/IC/S/3). More information on submissions and the follow-up on decisions of the Meeting of the Parties with regard to the submissions can be found at http://www.unece.org/env/eia/implementation/implementation_committee_matters.html.

The Committee will finalize the draft decision at its forty-second session (Geneva, 11–14 September 2018) prior to its submission for consideration and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its intermediary session.

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling article 11, paragraph 2, and article 14 bis of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention),

Recalling also its decision VI/2, paragraphs 45-46,² concerning compliance by Armenia with regard to the construction of the nuclear power plant in Metsamor,

Recalling further its decision at its seventh session (Minsk, 13–16 June 2017) to finalize its deliberations on the review of compliance with the Convention at an intermediary session, based on a revised draft decision to be prepared by the Implementation Committee and taking into account the work carried out and progress achieved before and during the seventh session,³

Having considered paragraphs 27-29 concerning Armenia in the report on the activities of the Implementation Committee to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session⁴ and the reports of the Committee on its thirty-ninth⁵ and forty-first⁶ sessions,

[*Recalling* its decision IS/1 on the review of compliance with the Convention adopted at the intermediary session,]

1. *Takes note* of the information from Government of Armenia that the final decision on the construction of the Metsamor nuclear power plant is no longer valid and activities based on that decision were suspended⁷;

2. *Endorses*, therefore, the finding of the Committee that there is no longer a project requiring a transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure relating to the Metsamor nuclear power plant⁸;

3. *Encourages*, however, Armenia to ensure that any projects carried out in accordance with energy-related programmes, including nuclear activities, be in compliance with the Convention.

² See ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.1.

³ See ECE/MP.EIA/23-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7, para. 27. See also draft decision VII/2 (ECE/MP.EIA/2017/8).

⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/2017/4-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/4.

⁵ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2017/4, paras. 31.

⁶ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2018/2, paras. 14.

⁷ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2016/4, para. 26

⁸ *ibid.*