



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

Fifth session

Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019

Report of the Meeting of the Parties on its fifth session

Addendum

**Decision V/1
General issues of compliance**

The Meeting of the Parties,

Considering its decision I/2 on the review of compliance,¹

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Compliance Committee to the Meeting of the Parties,²

Consultation Process

1. *Notes with appreciation* the Consultation Process held by the Compliance Committee with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and endorses the outcomes of the Process;

2. *Endorses* the interpretive note entitled “The provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health and their relationship with the European Union law governing water and health”, prepared by the Compliance Committee within the framework of the Consultation Process;³

3. *Draws the attention* of Parties to the Protocol and other States that are member States of the European Union, in particular those that are aligning their legislation with European Union law, to the conclusions of the interpretive note;

4. *Encourages* Parties to give due consideration to the conclusions of the interpretive note when implementing their obligations under the Protocol, including when setting targets and reporting on progress;

¹ ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3-EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3.

² ECE/MP.WH/2019/5-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/11.

³ ECE/MP.WH/2019/5/Add.1-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/11/Add.1.



5. *Requests* the secretariat to widely disseminate the interpretive note, including to the relevant institutions of the European Union;

6. *Encourages* Parties facing challenges in implementing the Protocol to engage in discussions with the Compliance Committee and to seek, when necessary, support from the Committee, taking the opportunities offered by the Consultation Process;

7. *Calls on* Parties to provide sufficient resources to the Committee to enable the conduct of the Consultation Process in a timely and comprehensive manner;

Setting targets in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol

8. *Notes with concern* 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 on Water and Health;

9. *Recalls* that, in accordance with decision IV/2 on general issues of compliance,⁴ targets are to be communicated to the joint secretariat for wider dissemination;

10. *Welcomes* the information on the targets and target-setting process provided by Parties in response to the letters sent by the secretariat at the request of the Compliance Committee;

11. *Urges* Parties that have not yet completed the target-setting process under the Protocol to speed up and finalize this process making use of the existing guidance material, in particular the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*⁵ and the *Collection of Good Practices and Lessons Learned on Target Setting and Reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health*;⁶

12. *Recommends* that each Party establish a strong national mechanism for coordination between water, environment, health and other relevant authorities as a key prerequisite for the effective implementation of the Protocol, and that such national coordination mechanisms be involved in the preparation of the summary reports;

13. *Stresses*, in relation to the targets, that:

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

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

(c) When a target has been achieved, Parties should consider whether to establish a new target or to maintain the level of protection and report accordingly in their summary reports;

Awareness-raising and cooperation with human rights bodies

14. *Notes with appreciation* the activities carried out by the Compliance Committee on awareness-raising on the compliance procedure, including reaching out to relevant non-governmental organizations;

15. *Welcomes* increased cooperation with human rights bodies and with other actors in the field of human rights and encourages the Compliance Committee to explore further opportunities for collaboration to consolidate the links established;

Reporting under the Protocol in accordance with article 7

16. *Notes with appreciation* that all Parties submitted their national summary reports within the fourth reporting cycle;

⁴ ECE/MP.WH/13/Add.2–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/06/Add.2.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 10.II.E.12.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 16.II.E.20.

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

18. *Emphasizes*, in line with paragraph 7 of decision II/1 on general issues of compliance,⁷ the importance of timeliness of reporting, and reiterates that failure to submit summary reports within the specified deadline, i.e. 210 days before the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, is inconsistent with the requirements of the Protocol;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of using the revised guidelines for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol⁸ and the corresponding template,⁹ including with respect to the length of reports;

20. *Stresses*, in relation to reporting, that:

(a) Information provided in the summary reports should be clear, complete and comprehensive;

(b) When omitting information, Parties should specify the reasons for such omissions;

(c) When describing action taken under the relevant sections of the revised template for summary reports, Parties should refer, as appropriate, to the most relevant and recent developments;

21. *Recognizes* that Parties that are member States of the European Union may refer to European Union legislation when reporting on the implementation of the Protocol but that, in doing so, they must clearly explain the relationship between the fulfilment of their obligations under the Protocol and the European Union legislation and/or domestic law transposing such legislation;

22. *Requests* Parties to provide clear and complete executive summaries in their summary reports in order to reflect the main achievements and challenges faced in implementing the Protocol;

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of collecting data on small systems for water supply and sanitation and of segregating data for urban and rural areas and/or according to alternative categories available in the reporting country;

24. *Urges* Parties to provide good quality data in their summary reports, including on the baseline situation for targets set in accordance with article 6, on common indicators for the review and assessment of progress and on thematic parts linked to priority areas of work under the Protocol;

25. *Requests* Parties to provide complete information on all the relevant provisions of the Protocol, including articles 8 and 9 to 14, in order to allow for the assessment of the overall implementation of the Protocol in future reporting cycles;

26. *Also requests* Parties to involve all relevant stakeholders, in particular the public and civil society, 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;

27. *Urges* Parties to comply with the provisions related to public participation in the process of setting targets and target dates and in the overall implementation of the Protocol, including by following the recommendations of the *Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health*¹⁰ and the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*.

⁷ ECE/MP.WH/4/Add.2-EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/Add.2.

⁸ ECE/MP.WH/13/Add.2-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/06/Add.2, decision IV/1, annex I.

⁹ Ibid., annex II.

¹⁰ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WH/9.