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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

Implementation Committee

Forty-ninth session

Geneva, 2–5 February 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 2 February 2021*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Membership of the Implementation Committee.
3. Review of decisions of the Meetings of the Parties.

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Members of the Committee and observers are therefore requested to register online at least two weeks before the start of the meeting, i.e. by **16 January 2021**, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/34697/registration/> (the use of the Internet Explorer browser is recommended). In case of difficulty, please refer to the online user manual (<https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/OMR/Online+Meeting+Registration+Guidelines>) or contact the secretariat by email (eia.conv@un.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website at www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.



4. Follow-up to decisions VIII/5 (a)–(e).
5. Submissions.
6. Committee initiative.
7. Information gathering:
 - (a) Convention matters;
 - (b) Protocol matters.
8. Review of implementation.
9. Structure, functions and operating rules.
10. Other business.
11. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The present provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in agreement with the Implementation Committee Chair,¹ in accordance with rule 9 of the Implementation Committee's operating rules.² The Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out herein.

2. Membership of the Implementation Committee

2. The members of the Implementation Committee are expected to introduce themselves. The Committee will then elect its Chair and Vice-Chairs.
3. The secretariat and the continuing Committee members will introduce the new members of the Committee to the key documents used by the Committee.

3. Review of decisions of the Meetings of the Parties

4. The Committee will review decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its eighth session and by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth session (online, 8–11 December 2020) as included in the report of the two sessions (ECE/MP.EIA/30–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13 (forthcoming)). In particular, it will consider the decisions on:

- (a) General issues of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol (decisions VIII/4 and IV/4, respectively);
- (b) Country-specific compliance (decisions VIII/4 (a)–(e));
- (c) The review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (decisions VIII/5 and IV/5, respectively);

¹ Acting in that role until the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

² The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention adopted the Committee's operating rules through decision IV/2, annex IV (see ECE/MP.EIA/10), and later amended them through decisions V/4, annex (see ECE/MP.EIA/15) and VI/2, annex II (see ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.1). A consolidated version is available on the Committee web page (www.unece.org/env/eia/implementation/implementation_committee.html).

- (d) Applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (decision VIII/6);
- (e) Adoption of the workplan (decision VIII/2–IV/2);
- (f) Financial arrangements for 2021–2023 (decision VIII/1–IV/1).

4. Follow-up to decisions VIII/5 (a)–(e)

5. Discussion under agenda item 4 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 of the operating rules.

6. The Committee is expected to follow up on country-specific decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, in particular, it is expected to examine actions to be taken by individual Parties and to agree on the contents of the reports to be submitted by them to the Implementation Committee. The decisions involved include:

(a) Decision VIII/4a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(b) Decision VIII/4b on compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(c) Decision VIII/4c on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets;

(d) Decision VIII/4d on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta;

(e) Decision VIII/4e on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of extension of the lifetime of the Rivne nuclear power plant.

5. Submissions

7. Discussions under agenda item 5 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 of the operating rules.

8. The Committee will continue its examination of the submission by Bulgaria of 30 May 2019 regarding the application of the Convention by Serbia to several mining activities located close to the border with Bulgaria, with a view to preparing for the discussions with Bulgaria and Serbia, in line with paragraph 9 of the Committee's structure and functions, tentatively scheduled to take place at its fiftieth session (Geneva, 4–7 May 2021).

9. The Committee will continue its examination of the submission received on 25 September 2019 from Montenegro on the application of the Convention by Albania to the planned construction of a number of small hydropower plants on the Cijevna River.

10. It will also examine any submissions by Parties received since the Committee's previous session.

6. Committee initiative

11. Discussions under agenda item 6 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 of the operating rules.

12. The Committee will continue to consider its initiative concerning compliance by Serbia with regard to the obligations under the Protocol with respect to the Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period up to 2025 with Projections up to 2030 and the Strategy's Implementation Programme for the Period 2017–2023. Further to the outcome of the discussions with Serbia at its special online session on 10 November

2020, in accordance with the Committee's structure and functions and its operating rules, the Committee will proceed with drafting its findings and recommendations.

7. Information gathering

13. Discussions under agenda item 7 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 of the operating rules.

(a) Convention matters

14. The Committee will continue its consideration of the information gathering concerning compliance with the provisions of the Convention by Bosnia and Herzegovina, in respect of the planned activities at the Banovici, Tuzla and Ugljevik thermal power plants, including by holding informal discussions on the matter with the delegations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

15. The Committee will continue consideration of information it has gathered concerning:

(a) Belarus, regarding its law on State ecological expertise, strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment;

(b) Bosnia and Herzegovina in respect of the planned activities at the Banovici, Tuzla and Ugljevik thermal power plants and concerning the planned construction of Buk Bijela hydropower station;

(c) Denmark, regarding the construction of the Nord Stream 2 project;

(d) Switzerland, regarding the planned changes at Zurich Airport;

(e) Ukraine, regarding: the planned construction of nuclear reactors 3 and 4 at the Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant; the activities at the Muzhiyevo goldmine; and the planned construction of a tourism complex in the Svydovets mountain range.

16. The Committee is also expected to consider information it has gathered on the extension of the lifetime of nuclear power plants, including concerning: the Kozloduy nuclear power plant in Bulgaria; the Blayais, Bugey, Chinon, Cruas, Dampierre, Gravelines, St. Laurent and Tricastin nuclear power plants in France; the Almaraz nuclear power plant in Spain; and the Rivne (units 3 and 4), South Ukrainian, Zaporizhzhya and Khmelnytsky nuclear power plants in Ukraine.

(b) Protocol matters

17. The Committee will also consider the information it has gathered concerning compliance with the provisions of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment by Poland regarding the Energy Strategy until 2040 of the Government of Poland.

8. Review of implementation

18. The secretariat will bring to the attention of the Committee general and specific compliance issues identified in the sixth review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/8) and the third review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/8). The Committee is expected to take these into account in its work in accordance with decision VIII/5 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and decision IV/5 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. In line with decisions VIII/5 and IV/5, the Committee may decide to adjust the questionnaire to be used for the preparation of the next reviews on the implementation of the Convention and Protocol during the period 2019–2021. In doing so, the Implementation Committee should take into account the suggested improvements to the

questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.5).³

19. The Committee is also expected to continue its consideration of the specific issue regarding compliance by the European Union with the Protocol identified in the first review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/3).

9. Structure, functions and operating rules

20. Further to decision VIII/4 of the Meetings of the Parties of the Convention and decision IV/4 of the Meetings of the Parties of the Protocol, the Committee is expected to consider the feasibility of revising its structure and functions and its operating rules with a view to enhancing coherence and reducing duplication between the two sets of rules and to increasing use of videoconferencing and other online and electronic communication tools as effective means for managing the Committee's workload. In doing so, the Committee is expected to take into account the experience gained by the Committee in the interim, including the discussions on its working methods and practice and suggestions provided at the Committee's forty-fifth session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2019/4, paras. 120–130).

10. Other business

21. Members of the Committee wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

11. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session

22. The Committee is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting and to confirm the date and location of its next session before the Chair formally closes the session.

³ This informal document was submitted to the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 26–28 November 2019) and is available on the web page for that meeting (www.unece.org/index.php?id=50466).