

9th meeting of the Working Group on EIA and SEA (Espoo Convention)

(Geneva, 24 – 26 August 2020)

Statements by the EU and its Member States

Agenda item 6): Compliance and implementation

6(a) Review of compliance and related draft decisions

The EU and its Member States respect and support the work of the Implementation Committee of the Espoo Convention. We would like to thank all Parties, which contribute by nominating members of the Implementation Committee. We also thank the Secretariat for its continuous support of the Implementation Committee.

Draft decision VIII/4 on general issues of compliance with the Convention

The EU and its Member States suggest the following remarks to be taken into account by the Implementation Committee when revising the draft decision:

1. Para 5 should be deleted as this information is vague and the Party concerned has not yet been subject of a notification.
2. We consider the information provided in para 6 very important, nevertheless, it should be noted that at least one of the Parties mentioned has not yet been notified of the cases by the Implementation Committee. We would like to point out that the Implementation Committee should notify the Parties concerned as soon as possible and that an explicit reference to a Party in this draft decision without prior notification seems unjustified; reference to the numerous information gathering cases should therefore be made in more general terms - not naming individual Parties - until formal notification by the Implementation Committee of this Party has taken place; the para should be reformulated accordingly. The transmission of the report of the Implementation Committee shall not be considered as a notification in due form.
3. The vocabulary used for para 6 could be revised in order to use the terms validated during the Meeting of the Parties.
4. Concerning Point 9 using a more stringent view than “urge” would be recommended. We invite the Implementation Committee to reconsider this point.