

13 May 2013  
English only

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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

Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment  
and Strategic Environmental Assessment

**Second meeting**

Geneva, 27–30 May 2013

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda**

Informal notes on the agenda

Note by the secretariat

This paper presents an overview of agenda items, associated documentation (official, informal “INF” and other) and actions to be taken by the delegates to the meeting.

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Documents</i>	<i>Actions</i>
Monday, 27 May 2013	10.00- 10.15	1. Adoption of the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisional agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/1)</li> <li>• (These) informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.1)</li> </ul> <p><i>Delegates might also wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal notes on meeting of Bureau, 31 January-1 February 2013</li> <li>• Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Working Group on EIA and SEA (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2012/2)</li> <li>• Report of the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP5) (ECE/MP.EIA/15, and Corr.1)</li> <li>• Report of the 1st session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP/MOP1) (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to adopt the agenda of its meeting.</li> </ul>
	10.15- 11.00	2. Status of ratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of ratification (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.2)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> will be invited report on planned ratifications of the Convention, its two amendments and its Protocol. In particular, <b>each Party to the Convention</b> that has not ratified the two amendments will be invited to report on its preparations for ratification, and <b>each Signatory of the Protocol</b> that has not ratified it will be invited to report on its preparations to do so.</li> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> will be invited to agree on possible further actions to encourage accession to or ratification of the Convention and the Protocol, and in particular to facilitate the entry into force of the two amendments to the Convention.</li> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to consider a decision by the Meeting of the Parties to the ECE Water Convention in November 2012 to facilitate the opening of the Convention to</li> </ul>

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				countries outside the ECE region (see annex I of ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.2) ; and (a) Decide on whether MOP-5 should adopt a similar decision. It may consider in particular the: (i) need to simplify the approval process by the MOPs; and (ii) timeline for the procedure for accession by non-ECE countries. (b) Propose actions and sources of funding for further promoting the Convention and its activities outside ECE region.
Monday, 27 May  and  Tuesday 28 May	11-13   15- 16.30	3. Compliance and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report of the Implementation Committee on its 25<sup>th</sup> session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2012/4) +Corrigendum</li> <li>• Report of the Implementation Committee on its 26<sup>th</sup> session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2012/6)</li> <li>• Report of the Implementation Committee on its 27<sup>th</sup> session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2013/2)</li> <li>• Proposals to assist Armenia and Azerbaijan with implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.4)</li> <li>• Informal notes on meeting of Bureau, 31 January-1 February 2013</li> <li>• Bringing into line the three authentic language versions of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.5)</li> <li>• Preparation of draft reviews of implementation (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.6)</li> <li>• Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.3)</li> <li>• Checklist prepared by the European Bank for Reconstruction (informal)</li> <li>• Draft general guidance on resolving a possible systemic inconsistency with the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.7)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to decide on the establishment of an ad hoc group to prepare proposals regarding the implementation of the Convention by Armenia and Azerbaijan, including the possible designation of an intermediary and the use of new communication technologies; Agree on the terms of reference for the possible intermediary (annex to ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.3); and Agree on possible other actions for assisting the two Parties.</li> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to consider the inconsistencies listed by the UN editors in the three authentic language versions of the Convention and agree on further actions to be taken by the ad hoc task force set up by the Working Group at its first meeting to bring the language versions of the Convention into line. The task force comprises of representatives of the <b>European Commission, France, Ireland, Switzerland, and Ukraine</b> and observers from the <b>European ECO Forum and Ecoglobe</b>.</li> <li>• Taking into account proposals by the Bureau and the Implementation Committee, the <b>Working Group</b> is expected to provide guidance for the production of concise reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, including by agreeing on aspects and articles to be focused on.</li> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> might wish to provide further guidance to the secretariat on the promotion of the use of the checklist prepared by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development by international financial institutions, and on the development of a consolidated list reflecting common practice</li> </ul>

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			<p><i>Delegates might also wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Text of the Convention (Certified True Copy)</i></li> <li>• The 3<sup>rd</sup> review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/16, electronic publication)</li> <li>• Opinions of the Implementation Committee 2001-2010 (informal electronic publication)</li> </ul>	<p>of those institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A consultant to the secretariat will present a draft general guidance on resolving a possible systemic inconsistency between the Convention and environmental impact assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. <b>Delegations, in particular from the concerned countries</b>, are expected to comment and provide input to the draft with a view to its finalization.</li> </ul>
Monday, 27 May  and  Tuesday 28 May	15-18    10-13	4. Exchange of good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminar on biodiversity in EIA and SEA Note by Belgium (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.8)</li> <li>• Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.3)</li> <li>• Application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities, note by the secretariat (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.9)</li> </ul> <p><i>Delegates might also wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal notes on meeting of Bureau (31January-1February 2013)</li> <li>• Background paper by the secretariat (ECE/MP.EIA/2011/5)</li> <li>• Information on panel discussion on nuclear energy-related projects (for MOP5 (ECE/MP.EIA/2011/INF.8).</li> <li>• Informal list of nuclear energy-related activities in the UNECE region, revised for MOP5.</li> <li>• Summary of a working paper by ANCCLI: Fostering nuclear safety in Europe through public information and participation, for a workshop on Public participation in decision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The lead country, Belgium</b>, will chair the seminar on biodiversity. <b>The Working Group</b> is expected to decide on follow-up actions based on the seminar outcomes.</li> <li>• <b>Representatives of lead countries (Austria, Finland and/or Sweden; and Poland and/or Portugal)</b> are expected to report on progress in organizing seminars for the exchange of good practices, as foreseen in the workplan. The delegations may refer to the recommendations of the Bureau regarding the timing and the contents of the nuclear-energy related seminar and its follow-up. <b>The Working Group</b> is expected to reach an agreement of the timing of the events and to discuss their main contents.</li> <li>• <b>The Working Group</b> is expected to decide on further actions to support application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities, such as the development of guidance to codify practical experience, and the collection of case studies on the application of EIA and SEA in the nuclear energy sector. It is invited to consider establishing a drafting group for the development of the draft guidance.</li> <li>• <b>Representatives or experts from States outside the ECE region</b> that are participating in a meeting under the Convention or its Protocol for the first time will be invited to present briefly the EIA and SEA systems and practices in their country. As needed, non-ECE representatives may also</li> </ul>

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			<p>making in the nuclear domain, Luxembourg, 12-13 March 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on the Workshop on Environmental impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in Eastern Asia, Seoul, 13–15 June 2012</li> </ul>	<p>provide brief updates to previously provided information.</p> <hr/>
Tuesday 28 May	16.30-18	5. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.3)</li> </ul> <p><i>Delegates might wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report of 6th Seminar on Cooperation on the EIA Convention in the Baltic Sea subregion</li> <li>• Report on a start-up workshop for a Pilot project on post project analysis between Belarus and Ukraine, (Brest, Belarus, 9-10 April 2013).</li> </ul> <hr/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A representative of <b>Estonia</b> will be invited to report on the holding of a subregional cooperation workshop for the Baltic Sea area.</li> <li>• Representatives of <b>lead countries (France, Germany, and, as appropriate, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan)</b> will be invited to report on progress in organizing other activities for subregional cooperation and capacity-building foreseen in the workplan.</li> <li>• A representative of <b>Romania</b> will be invited to report on the status of the Bucharest Agreement signed by ministers from South-Eastern Europe. The <b>other countries of South-Eastern Europe</b> are expected to report on actions taken to ratify and implement the agreement.</li> </ul> <hr/>
Wednesday 29 May	10-13	6. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health annex to the Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/4</li> <li>• Implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.3)</li> <li>• Good practice recommendations on public participation in SEA ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/3</li> <li>• Report on joint meeting on public participation in environmental decision-making Geneva, 29-30 October 2012 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The secretariat will report on its maintenance of the SEA Resource manual. The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to approve the electronic publication of Resource Manual in Russian, including the health annex.</li> <li>• The <b>secretariat and a representative of the Bureau</b> will report on the joint Espoo-Aarhus meeting on public participation in SEA and on the preparation of draft good practice recommendations on this issue. The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to comment the draft recommendations and agree on their further development.</li> <li>• The representative of the <b>International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)</b> will be invited to report on the preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice.</li> <li>• Representatives of <b>lead countries (Armenia, Belarus,</b></li> </ul>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IAIA informal pamphlets?</li> </ul> <p><i>Delegates might also wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft recommendations on public participation in environmental decision-making prepared under the Aarhus Convention Available at: <a href="http://www.unece.org/ppdm_recs.html">http://www.unece.org/ppdm_recs.html</a></li> <li>• Simplified Resource Manual to Support Application of the SEA Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/18)</li> <li>• Resource Manual to Support Application of the SEA Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/17)</li> <li>• Any case study fact sheets?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine</b>), or the secretariat, will be invited to report on preparations for workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives of <b>lead countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Republic of Moldova)</b>, or the secretariat, will be invited to report on preparations for pilot projects.</li> <li>• A representative of the <b>lead country (Republic of Moldova)</b>, or the secretariat, will be invited to report on plans for the development of legislation on SEA.</li> <li>• Delegations will be invited to propose cases in which the Protocol has been applied and that could be described in case study fact sheets to be published by the secretariat.</li> </ul>
Wednesday 29 May	15– 15.30	7. Inputs to related international processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair's Summary from the meeting of the Informal network of the Chairs of compliance/implementation bodies under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Geneva, 25 March 2013 (if available in time)</li> <li>• Chair's Summary from the meeting between the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE Environmental Conventions and the Committee of Environmental Policy, Geneva, 27 February 2013.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to comment the outcomes of the joint meetings.</li> </ul>
	15.30- 17.30	8. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biannual financial report</li> <li>• Recent contributions to the trust fund of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.11)</li> <li>• Draft Financial strategy (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/5)</li> </ul> <p><i>Delegates might also wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Sustainable extrabudgetary financial arrangements for the ECE environmental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> might report on additional contributions to the trust fund of the Convention.</li> <li>• The <b>Chair</b> will present a draft financial strategy for carrying out the work under the Convention and the Protocol given the financial constraints. The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to comment the draft and to agree on its further development. In this regard, it is invited to consider also proposed sustainable financial arrangements under the ECE treaties.</li> </ul>

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Thursday 30 May			conventions - Discussion paper by the secretariat "	
	10-13	9. Preparations for MOP6 and MOP/MOP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal notes on meeting of Bureau (31January-1February 2013)</li> <li>• Draft decisions that might be considered by the Meetings of the Parties at their next sessions (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2013/INF.12)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> will be invited to agree on a date for the next MOPs, considering Bureau's proposal to hold them in Kyiv from 2 to 5 June 2014</li> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to comment an initial list of decisions that might be considered by the next MOPs and decide on the preparation of the draft decisions in advance of its third meeting (in November 2013).</li> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> will be invited to evaluate the implementation of the current workplan and propose elements for the workplan to be adopted by the next MOPs, considering also their costs and sources of funding. Reference should also be made to the proposals in the Draft financial strategy. The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to decide on the further development of the draft workplan.</li> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> will be invited to make proposals for attracting high-level representation in the next sessions of the MOPs</li> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> will be invited to consider nominations for officers for the next intersessional period.</li> </ul>
	15-15.30	10. Staffing of the secretariat	(none)	
	15.30-16	11. Other business	(none)	
	16-17	12. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting	(none)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Group is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting.</li> </ul>