

**Revised****Third Meeting of the Parties***1 – 4 June 2004, Cavtat, Croatia*

**THE CONVENTION AND THE PROTOCOL  
AS INSTRUMENTS FOR DECISION-MAKING  
IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE UNECE REGION AND BEYOND**

**Item 4 on the Provisional Agenda  
PANEL DISCUSSION  
THURSDAY, 3 JUNE**

Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda ([ECE/MP.EIA/5](#)) provides for a discussion on the topic: “The Convention and the Protocol as instruments for decision-making in support of sustainable development in the UNECE region and beyond”. The discussion is expected to commence by 10:30 and will continue in the afternoon if required. The information in this note is subject to change and final arrangements will be provided in Cavtat.

Day	Times	Activity	Location (Hotel Croatia unless specified)
Thursday, 3 June	10:00-13:00	Third Meeting of Parties: HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Item 3: Opening ceremony</li> <li>▪ <b>Item 4: The Convention and the Protocol as instruments for decision-making in support of sustainable development in the UNECE region and beyond</b></li> </ul>	Conference Hall Ragusa
	13:00-15:00	Lunch	The Cavtat Restaurant
	15:00-18:00	Third Meeting of Parties: HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Item 4: (continued)</b></li> <li>▪ Item 5: The Cavtat Declaration</li> </ul>	Conference Hall Ragusa
	18:00-19:00	Press conference	Šipun Salon ( <b>NEW</b> location)
	20:00-23:00	Official Dinner with entertainment	Hotel beach (weather-permitting) or Konavle Restaurant

Ms. Visnja Jelic Muck, State Secretary, Croatian Ministry of the Environment, will chair the discussion. A panel comprising invited Ministers and other high-level representatives from governmental institutions, together with representatives from non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders from across the region, will provide insights into the topic, addressing issues such as: how EIA and SEA may promote an integrated approach to decision-making; the needs for capacity-building in EIA and SEA; quality assurance in EIA and SEA; and opportunities for stakeholder participation and partnerships.

**PANEL DISCUSSION, 3 JUNE**

Thereafter, delegations will be invited to make short interventions from the floor in response to the panel discussion, providing specific examples of how the Convention and the Protocol are affecting national decision-making. Furthermore, representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations will also be invited to inform the Meeting how their activities contribute to the above issues.

To encourage a lively and interactive discussion, the panel will be split in two. Each panel discussion will be followed by interventions from the floor. At the end of the discussion, the Chair is expected to provide a summary.

### **FIRST PANEL – Integrated approaches to decision-making and the relative benefits of SEA and Sustainability Appraisal**

The first panel is expected to comprise the following panellists:

- Her Excellency Ms. Fatme Iliaz, Deputy Minister of the Environment, Bulgaria
- Mr. Robert G. Connelly, Acting President, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- Ms. Lisette Simcock, Divisional Manager, Planning, International, Compensation and Assessment Division, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, United Kingdom
- Professor Bo Elling, EIA Centre, Department of Environment, Technology and Social Studies, Roskilde University, Denmark
- Mr. Barry Sadler, advisor to the Regional Environment Centre for Central and Eastern Europe and to the United Nations Environment Programme
- Dr. Jules de Heer, Ecoscan SA, Switzerland

The theme refers to the use of the two instruments (Convention and Protocol) as decision-aiding tools to promote sustainable development. There is much debate as to whether the EIA and SEA are adequate for promoting sustainable development, and whether their focus on the environment is to the detriment of informed decision making, or whether sustainability analyses (or appraisals or assessments), in which socio-economic effects are examined concurrently with environmental ones, are more appropriate.

Panellists might also examine the relationship between EIA and SEA and existing decision-making processes. How can they be integrated into decision-making? How much do they influence decision-making?

Panellists might also wish to discuss integrated environmental management, where an activity is subject to EIA and SEA and to a larger range of environmental management tools, upstream to environmental accounting and downstream to environmental management systems and auditing. It might also be interesting to examine links with sustainable development strategies.

## **SECOND PANEL – Capacity building and quality assurance in EIA and SEA and opportunities for stakeholder participation and partnerships**

The second panel is expected to comprise the following panellists:

- His Excellency Mr. Zhambul Bedzhanov, Deputy Minister of the Environment, Kazakhstan
- His Excellency Dr. Anatolii Hrytsenko, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Ukraine
- Mr. Andriy Andrusevych, Ecopravo-Lviv (Ukraine) and European EcoForum
- Dr. Aleg Cherp, Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy, Central European University, Hungary
- Dr. Andrzej Kassenberg, Environmental Planner, Institute for Sustainable Development, Warsaw, Poland
- Mr. Jean-Roger Mercier, World Bank Environmental Specialist

To strengthen implementation of the Convention and, later, the Protocol, there remains a significant demand for capacity building. The work plan ([MP.EIA/2004/10](#)) envisages a number of activities to develop capacity. What form should such capacity building take? What approaches are most effective, given the limited resources available? What approaches have failed and what can we learn from them? What needs should capacity building focus on? How can workable national EIA and SEA systems be established? Panellists might also wish to examine capacity-building partnerships involving NGO and private sector stakeholders.

Quality assurance in EIA and SEA is most crucial to avoid a watering down of the progressive objectives set in the Convention and Protocol. There are links to the issues of capacity building and participation as quality assurance should or could be a part of the capacity building and effective public participation can contribute to a better quality of EIA and SEA.

Public participation is essential to effective implementation of the Convention and Protocol. Much work has already been done on public participation in the Convention. What more needs to be done? What works well? What new approaches might be taken?

Panellists might wish to discuss other issues related to implementation that require further attention, including methodological weaknesses such as assessing cumulative effects.

### **FINAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Final arrangements for this agenda item will be advertised on the Espoo Convention web site (<http://www.unece.org/env/eia/cavtat.htm>) and provided in the *Welcome Pack*.



**Croatia, Cavtat**  
**01 - 04 June 2004**