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Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters

Compliance Committee

Fifty-first meeting

Geneva, 15–18 December 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-first meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9 a.m.
on Tuesday, 15 December 2015*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Committee.
3. Matters arising from previous meetings.
4. Submissions by Parties concerning other Parties.
5. Submissions by Parties concerning their own compliance.

* Delegates wishing to attend the meeting are requested to complete the registration form which is available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website (<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>) and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail to the following address: public.participation@unece.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 the map on the ECE website, http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/meetings/UN_map_Feb.2012.pdf). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone (41 22 917 2682/2650).

6. Referrals by the secretariat.
7. Requests from the Meeting of the Parties.
8. Requests from Parties for advice or assistance.
9. Communications from members of the public.
10. Matters arising from the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, including follow-up on specific cases of non-compliance.
11. Programme of work and calendar of meetings.
12. Other business.
13. Presentation of the draft meeting report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document, taking into account any points raised for consideration by observers.¹

2. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Committee

The Committee will be invited to share any information on relevant developments since its previous meeting that are not covered under other agenda items.

3. Matters arising from previous meetings

The Committee will be invited to discuss any other matters arising from its previous meetings that are not covered under other agenda items. In this context, the Committee is expected to discuss the draft revised guide to the Compliance Committee.

4. Submissions by Parties concerning other Parties

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any submission made by a Party concerning another Party's compliance with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention, as provided for under paragraph 15 of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.8). In this context, the Committee is expected to consider any new information received with regard to submission ACCC/S/2015/2 submitted by Lithuania concerning Belarus.

¹ Documentation for the meeting will be made available on a dedicated web page (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=39047#/>).

5. Submissions by Parties concerning their own compliance

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any submission made by a Party concerning its own compliance with the obligations under the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 16.

6. Referrals by the secretariat

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any referrals made by the secretariat concerning possible non-compliance by individual Parties with their obligations under the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 17.

7. Requests of the Meeting of the Parties

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is mandated to monitor, assess and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the reporting requirements under article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 13 (c). In this context, the Committee is expected to consider any new information received with regard to the request ACCC/M/2014/1 from the Meeting of the Parties concerning the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.²

8. Requests from Parties for advice or assistance

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is mandated to provide advice and facilitate assistance to individual Parties regarding the implementation of the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraphs 13, 36 and 37 (a). In this context, the Committee is expected to consider any new information received with regard to the request ACCC/A/2014/1 from Belarus.³

9. Communications from members of the public

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is mandated to consider communications from the public, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, chapter VI. In this context, the Committee is expected:

(a) To confirm the adoption of its findings and recommendations with regard to communication ACCC/C/2012/69 (Romania), as set out in document ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2015/10;

(b) To continue its deliberations on communications ACCC/C/2008/32 (European Union), ACCC/C/2012/71 (Czech Republic), ACCC/C/2013/81 (Sweden), ACCC/C/2013/88 (Kazakhstan), ACCC/C/2013/89 (Slovakia), ACCC/C/2013/91 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), ACCC/C/2013/92 (Germany), ACCC/C/2013/93 (Norway), ACCC/C/2013/98 (Lithuania), ACCC/C/2014/99 (Spain), ACCC/C/2014/102 (Belarus), ACCC/C/2014/104 (Netherlands) and ACCC/C/2014/105

² See ECE/MP.PP/2014/2, para. 27.

³ See ECE/MP.PP/2014/2, para. 53, and also the request for advice from Belarus in its statement to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/a1.html>.

(Hungary) in closed session with a view to completing its preparation of draft findings and, if appropriate, recommendations;

(c) To discuss the substance of communications ACCC/C/2013/96 (European Union), ACCC/C/2014/106 (Czech Republic) and ACCC/C/2014/113 (Ireland). In accordance with decision I/7, annex, paragraph 32, the Parties concerned and the communicants are invited to participate in the discussion on the subject matter of the communication;

(d) To consider any new information received with regard to communications ACCC/C/2013/87 (Ukraine), ACCC/C/2013/90 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2014/100 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2014/101 (European Union), ACCC/C/2014/107 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2014/109 (Hungary), ACCC/C/2014/111 (Belgium), ACCC/C/2014/112 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2014/115 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2014/118 (Ukraine), ACCC/C/2014/119 (Poland), ACCC/C/2014/120 (Slovakia), ACCC/C/2014/121 (European Union), ACCC/C/2014/122 (Spain), ACCC/C/2014/123 (European Union), ACCC/C/2014/124 (Netherlands), ACCC/C/2015/128 (European Union), ACCC/C/2015/130 (Italy) and ACCC/C/2015/131 (United Kingdom);

(e) To consider any new information received with regard to the preliminary admissibility of communications PRE/ACCC/C/2015/126 (Poland) and PRE/ACCC/C/2015/127 (Belgium);

(f) To discuss any new communications received before 10 November 2015, in particular with respect to their admissibility and any issues that may need to be raised with the Party concerned or the communicant.

10. Matters arising from the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, including follow-up on specific cases of non-compliance

In follow-up to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 30 June–1 July 2014), the Committee is expected to discuss any progress with regard to the implementation of decisions V/9 and V/9a–n of the Meeting of the Parties.

11. Programme of work and calendar of meetings

The Committee is expected to discuss and decide upon its programme of work and to identify dates for its future meetings.

12. Other business

At present the secretariat has no other business to suggest under this agenda item.

13. Presentation of the draft meeting report

The Committee will be invited to review the draft report of the meeting.
