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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-third meeting
Geneva, 21–24 June 2016

Report of the Compliance Committee on its fifty-third meeting


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Introduction

1. The fifty-third meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) was held from 21 to 24 June 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

A. Attendance

2. All the Committee members were present throughout the meeting with the exception of Jonas Ebbesson, the Chair of the Committee, who had indicated in advance that he would not be able to attend on 21 June, though he was present for the other days of the meeting. Members having declared a conflict of interest with respect to particular cases did not participate in closed sessions deliberating on those cases.

3. The communicants of communications ACCC/C/2014/111 (Belgium), ACCC/C/2014/112 (Ireland) and ACCC/C/2014/119 (Poland) and representatives of the respective Parties concerned took part in the hearings in open session on 22, 23 and 24 June 2016 concerning those communications.

4. Representatives of the Party concerned and the communicant of communication PRE/ACCC/C/2016/138 (Armenia) and a representative of the Party concerned of communication PRE/ACCC/C/2016/139 (Ireland) took part by audio conference in the open session on preliminary admissibility on 21 June 2016.

5. Also participating as observers during all open sessions of the meeting were representatives of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Earthjustice (Switzerland) and OEKOBUERO (Austria), both of which participated on behalf of the European ECO Forum. A representative of the Netherlands and representatives of the NGOs Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy (Cameroon) and the Irish Environmental Network (Ireland), as well as a representative of University College of London, also participated in one or more open sessions.

B. Organizational matters

6. The Vice-Chair of the Compliance Committee, Alexander Kodjabashev, opened the meeting.

7. The Committee adopted its agenda as set out in document ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2016/4.

8. The Vice-Chair reported on the outcomes of the two virtual meetings held by the Committee since its fifty-second meeting (Geneva, 8–11 March 2016). The virtual meetings had been held in closed session on 13 May and 1 June 2016. Committee members Ion Diaconu and Jerzy Jendrośka had not taken part in the Committee's virtual meeting on 13 May. All Committee members had taken part in the virtual meeting on 1 June. During the virtual meeting on 13 May, the Committee had continued the preparation of its second progress reviews with respect to the implementation of decisions V/9b–n of the Meeting of the Parties. During the virtual meeting on 1 June 2016, the Committee had completed its drafts findings on communications ACCC/C/2012/71 (Czechia), ACCC/C/2013/88 (Kazakhstan), ACCC/C/2013/89 (Slovakia) and ACCC/C/2014/99 (Spain), save for some minor editing points which the Committee had agreed through its electronic decision-making procedure after the virtual meeting.

I. Submissions, referrals and requests under the Convention

9. With respect to submission ACCC/S/2015/2 (Belarus), submitted by Lithuania, the Committee noted that no new information had been received. The Committee agreed to request the secretariat to send questions to the parties and provisionally scheduled to hold the hearing to discuss the substance of the submission at its fifty-fourth meeting (Geneva, 27–30 September 2016).
10. The Chair informed the Committee that no submissions had been made by Parties concerning problems with their own compliance since the Committee's last meeting.
11. No referrals had been made by the secretariat since the Committee's last meeting.
12. With respect to Meeting of the Parties request ACCC/M/2014/1 (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the secretariat reported that the Party concerned had informed the the Working Group of the Parties at its twentieth meeting (Geneva, 15–17 June 2016) that it planned to submit its report for the fourth reporting cycle in September 2016.
13. Concerning advisory request ACCC/A/2014/1 (Belarus), the Committee continued its deliberations on its draft recommendations in closed session.

II. Communications from members of the public

14. The Committee agreed that the deadline for the receipt of new communications to be considered for preliminary admissibility at its fifty-fourth meeting would be 23 August 2016.
15. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2008/32 (European Union), the Committee completed its draft findings and requested the secretariat to send them to the Party concerned and the communicant for comment, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties. The Committee would take into account any comments received when finalizing the findings.
16. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2009/38 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the secretariat informed the Committee that it had endeavoured to contact the communicant's representative to seek its views on the letter of the Party concerned of 10 October 2015, but to date had not reached her. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to contact the communicant's representative and agreed that it would decide how to proceed once the communicant's comments were received.
17. Regarding communication ACCC/C/2012/71 (Czechia), the Committee had agreed its draft findings at its virtual meeting on 1 June 2016, save for some minor editing points which it had completed through its electronic decision-making procedure on 15 June 2016. The Committee requested the secretariat to send the draft findings to the Party concerned and the communicants for comment in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee would take into account any comments received when finalizing the findings.
18. Regarding communication ACCC/C/2013/81 (Sweden), the Committee completed its draft findings and requested the secretariat to send the draft findings to the Party concerned and the communicant for comment in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee would take into account any comments received when finalizing the findings.
19. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2013/87 (Ukraine), the Committee noted that at its fifty-second meeting it had agreed to ask the Party concerned to provide

additional information, including English translations of relevant legislation. The Committee agreed that it would decide how to proceed at its next meeting in the light of the information received.

20. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2013/88 (Kazakhstan), the Committee had agreed its draft findings at its virtual meeting on 1 June 2016, save for some minor editing points which it had completed through its electronic decision-making procedure on 15 June 2016. The Committee requested the secretariat to send the draft findings to the Party concerned and the communicants for comment in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee would take into account any comments received when finalizing the findings.

21. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2013/89 (Slovakia), the Committee had agreed its draft findings at its virtual meeting on 1 June 2016, save for some minor editing points which it had completed through its electronic decision-making procedure on 15 June 2016. The Committee requested the secretariat to send the draft findings to the Party concerned and the communicants for comment in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee would take into account any comments received when finalizing the findings.

22. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2013/90 (United Kingdom), the Committee noted that at its fifty-second meeting it had agreed to ask the communicant to comment on the response of the Party concerned to the communication dated 27 November 2015 with respect to the issue of admissibility. The Committee agreed that it would decide how to proceed at its next meeting in the light of the comments received.

23. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2013/91 (United Kingdom), the Committee requested the secretariat to send some further questions to the Party concerned. It agreed to continue its deliberations at its fifty-fourth meeting in the light of the responses received.

24. Regarding communication ACCC/C/2013/92 (Germany), the Committee agreed to finalize its draft findings through its electronic decision-making procedure after the meeting. It requested the secretariat to send the draft findings, once agreed, to the Party concerned and the communicants for comment in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee would take into account any comments received when finalizing the findings.

25. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2013/93 (Norway), the Committee agreed to finalize its draft findings through its electronic decision-making procedure after the meeting. It requested the secretariat to send the draft findings, once agreed, to the Party concerned and the communicants for comment in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee would take into account any comments received when finalizing the findings.

26. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2013/96 (European Union), the Committee considered the e-mail provided by the communicant on 17 April 2016, the reply of the Party concerned dated 20 May 2016 to the Committee's questions of 3 January 2016, and the communicant's comments dated 6 June 2016 on the reply of the Party concerned. The Committee expressed its concern at the lateness of the Party's reply to the Committee's questions of 3 January 2016: the reply had been received more than two months after the deadline of 4 March 2016, which had already constituted a generous two-month time frame for the Party concerned to prepare its reply. The Committee pointed out that to ensure the smooth management of its workload, it was important that the time frames it set for parties to provide comments or additional information were adhered to by all concerned. The Committee stressed that the five-month time frame referred to in paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7 for a Party concerned to submit its response to a communication applied

only to the formal response of the Party concerned to the communication itself. In closed session, the Committee continued its deliberations on its draft findings and agreed to continue those deliberations at its next meeting, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.

27. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2013/98 (Lithuania), the Committee requested the secretariat to send some further questions to the Party concerned. It agreed to continue its deliberations in the light of the responses received, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.

28. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2014/99 (Spain), the Committee had agreed its draft findings at its virtual meeting on 1 June 2016, save for some minor editing points which it had completed through its electronic decision-making procedure on 15 June 2016. The Committee requested the secretariat to send the draft findings to the Party concerned and the communicants for comment in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee would take into account any comments received when finalizing the findings.

29. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2014/100 (United Kingdom), the Committee noted that the questions to be sent to the parties following the hearing on the substance of the communication held at its fifty-second meeting would be finalized and sent to the parties shortly. The Committee agreed to defer its deliberations until its fifty-fourth meeting, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.

30. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2014/101 (European Union), the Committee agreed to defer its deliberations until its fifty-fourth meeting, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.

31. Regarding communication ACCC/C/2014/102 (Belarus), the Committee agreed to defer its deliberations on its draft findings until its fifty-fourth meeting, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.

32. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2014/104 (Netherlands), the Committee continued its deliberations in closed session and agreed to continue those deliberations at its next meeting, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.

33. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2014/105 (Hungary), the Committee took note of the reply dated 24 March 2016 from the Party concerned to the Committee's questions, as well as the communicant's comments dated 21 April 2016 on that reply. The Committee continued its deliberations in closed session. It agreed to send further questions to the Party concerned and the communicant and to continue its deliberations at its next meeting, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.

34. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2014/106 (Czechia), the Committee agreed to defer its deliberations on its draft findings until its fifty-fourth meeting, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.

35. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2013/107 (Ireland), the Committee noted that the questions to be sent to the parties following the hearing on the substance of the communication held at its fifty-second meeting would be finalized and sent to the parties shortly. The Committee agreed to defer its deliberations on its draft findings until its fifty-fourth meeting, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.
36. Regarding communication ACCC/C/2014/109 (Hungary), the Committee requested the secretariat to send questions to the communicant and agreed it would decide how to proceed in the light of the information received.
37. The Committee held the hearing to discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2014/111 (Belgium) in open session with the participation of the Party concerned and the communicant. Following the hearing, the Committee commenced its deliberations on its draft findings and agreed to continue its deliberations at its fifty-fourth meeting with a view to their finalization.
38. The Committee held the hearing to discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2014/112 (Ireland) in open session with the participation of the Party concerned and the communicant. Following the hearing, the Committee commenced its deliberations on its draft findings and agreed to continue its deliberations at its fifty-fourth meeting with a view to their finalization.
39. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2014/113 (Ireland), the Committee continued its deliberations in closed session and agreed to continue those deliberations at its next meeting, with a view to completing its draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations, which once agreed would be sent for comment to the Party concerned and the communicant.
40. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2014/118 (Ukraine), the Committee considered the new information provided by the communicant on 25 May 2016 and expressed its concern that the deadline for the response of the Party concerned had expired on 29 November 2015, but the Party's response had not to date been received. The Committee requested the secretariat to follow up with the Party concerned regarding its outstanding response.
41. The Committee held the hearing to discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2014/119 (Poland) in open session with the participation of the Party concerned and the communicant. Following the hearing, the Committee commenced its deliberations on its draft findings and agreed to continue its deliberations at its fifty-fourth meeting with a view to their finalization.
42. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2014/120 (Slovakia), the Committee provisionally scheduled that it would hold the hearing to discuss the substance of the communication at its fifty-fourth meeting.
43. Regarding communication ACCC/C/2014/121 (European Union), the Committee requested the secretariat to ask the communicant to comment on the submissions regarding admissibility made by the Party concerned in its response to the communication dated 27 November 2015. The Committee also requested the secretariat to seek the views of the Party concerned and the communicant on whether, given the substance of the communication, they would consider it appropriate for the Committee to proceed to commence its deliberations on the substance of the communication without holding a hearing. The Committee agreed to decide how to proceed at its fifty-fourth meeting, taking into account the comments received.

44. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2014/122 (Spain), the Committee provisionally scheduled that it would hold the hearing to discuss the substance of the communication at its fifty-fifth meeting.

45. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2014/123 (European Union), the Committee took note of the comments received on 20 June 2016 from the Party concerned, the communicant and the United Kingdom (acting as observer) in which each had indicated they considered that the Committee might proceed to commence its deliberations on the substance of the communication without holding a hearing. Taking into account the views expressed on this point, the Committee requested the secretariat to write to the parties to inform them of the deadline by which they should submit any final written submissions. The Committee would take into account the further written submissions received by the deadline when commencing its deliberations in closed session at its fifty-fourth meeting.

46. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2014/124 (Netherlands), the Committee took note of the additional information provided by the Party concerned on 3 June 2016. The Committee provisionally scheduled that it would hold the hearing to discuss the substance of the communication at its fifty-fourth meeting.

47. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2015/126 (Poland), the Committee noted that the communication had been forwarded to the Party concerned on 11 March 2016 for its response. It further noted that the deadline of 11 August 2016 for its response had not yet expired and the Party's response had not yet been received.

48. Regarding communication ACCC/C/2015/128 (European Union), the Committee took note of the response to the communication provided by the Party concerned on 20 May 2016 and the comments from an observer, Friends of the Earth, on 19 July 2016. The Committee requested the secretariat to ask the communicant to comment on the submissions regarding admissibility made by the Party concerned in its response to the communication. The Committee agreed to decide how to proceed after taking into account the comments received.

49. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2015/129 (Ireland), the Committee noted that the further questions which the Committee proposed to send to the communicants prior to forwarding the communication to the Party concerned for its response had not yet been sent, but that they would be sent prior to the Committee's fifty-fourth meeting. Once the communicants' reply to the Committee's questions was received, the communication would be sent to the Party concerned for its response.

50. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2015/130 (Italy), the Committee noted that the deadline of 5 March 2016 for the response of the Party concerned to the communication had expired, but its response had not yet been received. The secretariat informed the Committee that it had contacted the Party concerned to follow up on its outstanding response. The secretariat reported that the Party concerned had expressed its regret that, owing to two changes in the national focal point during the period for its response, the deadline had been overlooked, but that it was working to submit its response as soon as possible.

51. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2015/131 (United Kingdom), the Committee considered the response of the Party concerned to the communication dated 13 May 2016, and the communicant's comments dated 6 June 2016 on that response. In the light of the information received from the parties, the Committee agreed to ask the communicant to comment on the submissions on admissibility made by the Party concerned in its response, including the extent to which her allegations regarding costs raised issues that were not already being examined by the Committee in its review of the implementation of decision V/9n. The Committee agreed to decide how to proceed after taking into account the comments received.

52. Regarding communication ACCC/C/2015/132 (Ireland), the Committee noted that the communication had been forwarded to the Party concerned on 11 March 2016 for its response. It further noted that the deadline of 11 August 2016 for its response had not yet expired and the Party's response had not yet been received.

53. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2015/133 (Netherlands), the Committee noted that the communication had been forwarded to the Party concerned on 11 March 2016 for its response. It further noted that the deadline of 11 August 2016 for its response had not yet expired and the Party's response had not yet been received.

54. Concerning communication ACCC/C/2015/134 (Belgium), the Committee noted that the communication had been forwarded to the Party concerned on 11 March 2016 for its response. It further noted that the deadline of 11 August 2016 for its response had not yet expired and the Party's response had not yet been received. The Committee took note of the additional information provided by the communicant on 13 June 2016.

55. With respect to communication ACCC/C/2015/135 (France), the Committee noted that the communication had been forwarded to the Party concerned on 11 March 2016 for its response. It further noted that the deadline of 11 August 2016 for its response had not yet expired and the Party's response had not yet been received.

56. Regarding communication ACCC/C/2015/137 (Germany), the Committee noted that the communication would be forwarded to the Party concerned for its response shortly after the meeting.

57. Regarding communications received since 23 February 2016 (the deadline for receipt of communications for the fifty-second meeting), the Committee considered the preliminary admissibility of two communications (as set out below).

58. Communication ACCC/C/2016/138 (Armenia) had been submitted on 21 February 2016 by the NGO "Ecological Right". The communication alleged non-compliance with article 9, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Convention with respect to the environmental impact assessment for the Amulsar open-pit mine near the Gndevaz community in Armenia. With respect to the preliminary admissibility of the communication, the Committee heard the views of the Party concerned and communicant by audio conference. After considering in closed session the information received, the Committee determined that the communication was preliminarily admissible. It requested the secretariat to forward the communication to the Party concerned for its response. Mr. Diaconu was confirmed as curator for the case.

59. Communication ACCC/C/2016/139 (Ireland) had been submitted by an NGO, the Irish Underwater Council. The communication alleged non-compliance with article 6, paragraph 2 (a), and article 5, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention concerning a permit for dumping at sea. Both the Party concerned and the communicant had been invited to participate in the open session on preliminary admissibility of the communication by audio conference, though only the Party concerned took part. After considering in closed session the information received, the Committee agreed to request the secretary to invite the communicant to clarify certain aspects of its communication and to defer its determination on preliminary admissibility to its fifty-fourth meeting. Committee member Pavel Černý was provisionally designated as curator for the case.

III. Reporting requirements

60. The Committee noted that, at its fifth session (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 30 June–1 July 2014), the Meeting of the Parties had urged those Parties that had not yet submitted

their national implementation reports — i.e., Portugal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan — to do so by 1 October 2014.¹ To date, Portugal and Turkmenistan had submitted their reports. As noted in paragraph 12 above, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had informed the Working Group of the Parties that it planned to submit its report for the fourth reporting cycle in September 2016.

IV. Follow-up on specific cases of non-compliance

61. The Committee held an open session on the implementation of decisions V/9a-n of the Meeting of the Parties during which it invited those present to inform the Committee of any recent developments relevant to the implementation of those decisions. The Committee also provided an update on its work to prepare the second progress reviews on the implementation of the decisions. In that regard, the Committee reported that:

(a) Following its fifty-second meeting it had adopted its second progress review on decision V/9a (Armenia) through its electronic decision-making procedure, and the secretariat had sent the second progress review on decision V/9a to the Party concerned, the communicants and observers on 8 April 2016;

(b) At its virtual meeting on 13 May 2016, the Committee had continued its preparation of its second progress reviews on decisions V/9b and V/9d-k in closed session and had agreed to adopt those second progress reviews through its electronic decision-making procedure after the fifty-third meeting.

62. In closed session, the Committee continued the preparation of its second progress reviews on decisions V/9c (Belarus), V/9h (Germany), V/9l (Turkmenistan), V/9m (Ukraine) and V/9n (United Kingdom) and agreed to adopt those second progress reviews through its electronic decision-making procedure after the fifty-third meeting.

63. The Committee instructed the secretariat to send all second progress reviews, once adopted, to the respective Parties concerned, the communicants and observers and to invite the Parties concerned to take the reviews into account in the preparation of their final progress reports.

V. Programme of work and calendar of meetings

64. The Committee's fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh meetings would be held in Geneva, from 27 to 30 September 2016, from 6 to 9 December 2016, from 28 February to 3 March 2017 and from 27 to 30 June 2017, respectively.

VI. Other business

A. Modus operandi

65. The Chair noted that the draft revised Guide to the Compliance Committee (version of 8 December 2015) was available on the web page for the fifty-third meeting, and invited all present to send any comments on the draft text. The Committee agreed that it would discuss the draft revised Guide, incorporating the comments received, at its fifty-fourth

¹ See ECE/MP.PP/2014/2, para. 26.

meeting. The new draft would be posted on the web page of the fifty-fourth meeting in advance of that meeting.

B. Other matters

66. The secretariat informed the Committee that the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties was scheduled to take place in Budva, Montenegro, from 11 to 16 September 2017.

67. The secretariat reported on the outcomes of the ninth meeting of the Convention's Task Force on Access to Justice (Geneva, 14–15 June 2016), which had included a special session for representatives of the judiciary, judicial training institutions and other relevant review bodies.²

68. The secretariat also reported on the outcomes of the twentieth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention.³ At that meeting, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau had expressed its formal interest in acceding to the Convention. A representative of the European ECO Forum suggested that United Nations organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, or other relevant organizations operating outside the ECE region, should be invited to support capacity-building for countries willing to accede to the Convention.

69. The secretariat and Mr. Jendroška reported on the ongoing process to develop a regional agreement on access rights in environmental matters in the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

70. The secretariat further reported on its participation at the fourth Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment (Bonn, 18–19 May 2016) to promote the Convention's principles.⁴ It also outlined some of the activities relevant to the promotion of the Convention held during the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016).⁵ The secretariat had also participated at a side event held on 14 June 2016, during the thirty-second session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which had been organized by the NGO, Article 19, together with the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Norway, to discuss human rights and access to information laws and policies.

71. Committee member Alistair McGlone reported on the discussions at the fourth meeting of the informal network of the Chairs of the implementation and compliance bodies of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (Geneva, 20 June 2016).⁶

72. Mr. Jendroška also informed the Committee of his participation at a seminar for government officials and NGOs on 2 and 3 June 2016 in Pula, Croatia, on "How to use the Aarhus Convention for the protection of space and nature".

VII. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting

73. The Committee presented the draft report in open session and agreed to adopt its report through its electronic decision-making procedure after the meeting, taking into

² See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41958#/>

³ See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41956#/>.

⁴ See http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/education_and_outreach/dialogues/items/9414.php.

⁵ See <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/environment-for-europe/efe-conferences/batumi-conference/welcome.html>.

⁶ See <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/joint-work-and-informal-networks.html>.

account the comments received on the report at the meeting. The Chair then officially closed the fifty-third meeting.
