



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

MP.PP/2002/8
12 August 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

(First meeting, Lucca, Italy, 21-23 October 2002)
(Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda)

DRAFT DECISION I/6

PROMOTING THE USE OF ELECTRONIC AND OTHER INFORMATION TOOLS

The Meeting.

Mindful of the need to develop more effective means of providing public access to environmental information and actively disseminating it to the public,

Noting the requirement in article 5, paragraph 3, on each Party to progressively make information available in electronic form,

Aware of the rapid pace of technological development in this area and the consequent need to keep the topic under review on an ongoing basis,

Welcoming the work undertaken by the task force on electronic information tools established by the Meeting of the Signatories, and in particular the output of the workshop on electronic information tools held under the auspices of that task force in Arendal, Norway, in March 2001,

Welcoming also the compendium of good practices and the survey of priorities, challenges and case studies prepared by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe on behalf of the task force,

1. Takes note of the report of the Arendal workshop 1/ and invites Parties to consider using the list of possible actions annexed to it as a source of ideas for taking initiatives at national level;
2. Invites Parties and non-Parties to develop a national web site with legal and practical information on issues related to the Convention at national level, linked to the official UNECE Aarhus Convention web site;
3. Establishes a task force on electronic information tools under the authority of the Working Group of the Parties to continue and further develop the work of the task force established by the Meeting of the Signatories, so as to facilitate the implementation of the Convention;
4. Requests the task force to:
 - (a) Finalize a list of regional, subregional and national priorities based on the results achieved under the auspices of the previous task force;
 - (b) Further document and share best practices in the use of electronic information tools, including new developments, through inter alia facilitating case studies, training workshops, information sharing and staff exchanges both in a physical and a virtual environment;
 - (c) On the basis of the priorities identified and taking into account best practices in the use of electronic information tools, prepare draft recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools to provide public access to environmental information, in particular with a view to promoting effective implementation of the Convention;
 - (d) Identify and where possible contribute to the implementation of capacity-building measures in cooperation with the capacity-building service and the clearing-house mechanism;
 - (e) Explore more general mechanisms, tools and systems for disseminating environmental information to the public, such as environmental information centres and publications programmes of authorities;
 - (f) Enlist the support of the Convention's capacity-building service and clearing-house mechanism in these activities where appropriate; and
 - (g) Present the results of its work to the Working Group of the Parties with a view to their consideration and possible adoption at the second meeting of the Parties; and
5. Welcomes the offer of Bulgaria to lead the task force and invites all interested Parties, other States and organizations to take part in the work.

1/ CEP/WG.5/2001/4, also available on www.unece.org/env/pp/