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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

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

**Addendum**

**DECISION I/12**

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2003-2005**

adopted at the first meeting of the Parties  
held in Lucca, Italy, on 21-23 October 2002

The Meeting,

Recalling article 10, paragraph 2 (g), of the Convention requiring Parties to consider and undertake any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the purposes of the Convention,

Recalling also its decision I/11 on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes, as well as its decisions I/14 on the establishment of the Working Group of the Parties and I/13 on financial arrangements,

1. Adopts the work programme under the auspices of the Convention up until its second meeting as annexed to this decision; and
2. Calls on the Parties and invites Signatories, other States and relevant intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the activities contained in the work programme.

**Annex**  
**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE AARHUS CONVENTION**  
**(2003-2005)**

Activity	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs <u>1/</u> in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
<b>I. Compliance mechanism</b>	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the Convention	Compliance committee	Compliance committee to meet to review reports, submissions, etc. Fact-finding missions. Secretariat to publicize the mechanism and service the Committee	Ongoing	Staff time (1 full-time professional with overheads), Committee meetings (travel + DSA), expert missions, other costs	300	300
<b>II. Pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTR)</b>	Short-term: finalisation, adoption and signature of the protocol on PRTRs at the Kiev Conference. Medium-term: Facilitate the ratification, entry into force and implementation of the protocol	Working group or meeting of Signatories to PRTR protocol	Meetings of the main PRTR body (one per year) and expert groups or task forces (three per year), "virtual classroom" to communicate electronically, publications on guidance to the instrument	Ongoing	Staff time (1 full-time professional with overheads), meetings (travel + DSA for eligible participants), consultancy	250	180
<b>III. Genetically modified organisms</b>	Draft decision for the second meeting of the Parties to further the application of the Convention to GMOs	Working Group on GMOs	Working Group meetings (three), expert studies	Up to second meeting of the Parties	Participation in meetings (travel + DSA for eligible participants), consultancy	40	40

Activity	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs <sup>1/</sup> in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
<b>IV. Access to justice</b>	Support the implementation of article 9 of the Convention, preparation of a basis for draft recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties on further activities	Task Force on Access to Justice, led by Belgium	Develop information and guidance material, training workshops, case study collection and examination, identification of further activities	Up to second meeting of the Parties	Participation in workshop (travel and DSA), collection of case studies	45	35
<b>V. Electronic information tools</b>	Draft recommendations for the second meeting of the Parties on the more effective use of electronic information tools, information flow on good practices, provide input, as appropriate, to the World Summit on the Information Society	Task Force on Electronic Information Tools, led by Bulgaria	Collection of examples of best practices. Workshops, electronic discussion board, capacity-building measures	Up to second meeting of the Parties	Costs of workshops (incl. travel and DSA for eligible participants), other costs	45	35
<b>VI. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities</b>	Coordination and oversight of the activities under the Convention, i.e. through the implementation of this programme	Working Group of the Parties and the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	Working Group meetings (estimation one meeting per year), meetings of the Bureau as necessary and consultations among bureau members electronically	Ongoing	Participation in meetings (travel and DSA for eligible participants)	35	35

					Estimated costs <u>1/</u> in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall require- ments	Core require- ments
<b>VII. Capacity- building Service</b>	To operate the capacity- building service to assist countries in the effective implementation of the Convention. Minimum two subregional workshops per year	Secretariat in close cooperation with UNEP and UNEP/GRID- Arendal	Through specific projects in countries needing assistance. Training workshops and technical assistance, mostly separately funded	Pilot phase 2003-2004.  Fully operational 2005	Staff time, participation in workshops (travel and DSA for eligible participants), promotion material of the service <u>2/</u>	130	30
<b>VIII. Information and fund-matching clearing house</b>	To facilitate the exchange of information related to the Convention and to facilitate the match between available financial support project proposals	Secretariat, in cooperation with UNEP/GRID- Arendal	Electronically, through the Convention web site	Ongoing	Staff time, consultancy to establish the clearing house	25	10
<b>IX. Awareness raising and promotion of the Convention</b>	To further the knowledge of the Convention and its principles throughout the UNECE region and beyond, to increase the number of Parties to the Convention, to support regional initiatives (e.g. ESCAP Guidelines)	Secretariat	Participation in key regional and international events and processes. Support to workshops organized by others. Preparation of leaflets, publications, news bulletins and other material. Updated web site. Write and review articles on the Convention	Ongoing	Staff time (1 part- time professional with overheads), participation in relevant events where funding is not provided for by the organizers (travel and DSA), consultancy	80	50

Activity	Objective and expected outcome	Lead country, body or organization	Method of work	Approximate time frame	Estimated costs <sup>1/</sup> in thousands of US dollars per year (average)		
					Item	Overall requirements	Core requirements
<b>X. Interlinkages with other conventions</b>	To further the application of the principles of the Convention in the context of other multilateral environmental conventions (MEAs)	Secretariat	Participation in relevant workshops relevant to the Aarhus Convention, joint activities with other Conventions, e.g. workshop with the convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Ensure coordination with other ECE MEAs	Ongoing	Staff time, travel to relevant events where not provided for by the organizers	30	0
<b>XI. Extraordinary and second ordinary meeting of the Parties</b>	Extraordinary: To adopt and sign the PRTR Protocol. Ordinary: See article 10 of the Convention	Meeting of the Parties	Meetings of the Parties	Extraordinary: May 2003. Ordinary: 2004 or 2005	Participation in meetings (travel and DSA for eligible participants)	40	30
<b>Subtotal</b>						1,020	745
<b>Programme support cost (13%)</b>						150	110
<b>TOTAL</b>						<b>1,170</b>	<b>855</b>

### **Notes**

1/ The estimated costs shown here exclude costs expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget. At present, the regular budget covers of 1.5 full-time professional staff members and 0.5 secretarial staff member and the associated administrative overheads.

2/ The estimated costs for this item are based on the costs of two subregional workshops per year on average and some staff time to 'prime the pump'. However, the intention is that the service would generate additional funding for projects meeting the needs of the target countries. The costs of such projects are not reflected here.