



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Implementation Committee

Fiftieth session

Geneva, (online), 4–7 May 2021...

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fiftieth session*

To be held online, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 4 May 2021**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4d–e.
3. Submissions.
4. Committee initiatives.

* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

** There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Members of the Committee and observers are therefore requested to register online at least two weeks before the start of the meeting, i.e. by **20 April 2021**, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/34733/> (the use of the Internet Explorer browser is recommended). In case of difficulty, please refer to the online user manual (<https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/OMR/Online+Meeting+Registration+Guidelines>), contact the secretariat by email (eia.conv@un.org), or contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6307.



5. Information gathering:
 - (a) Convention matters;
 - (b) Protocol matters.
6. Review of implementation.
7. Structure, functions and operating rules.
8. Other business.
9. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The present provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in agreement with the Implementation Committee Chair, in accordance with rule 9 of the Implementation Committee's operating rules.¹ The Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol will be invited to adopt the present agenda.

2. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4d–e

2. Discussions under agenda item 2 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 of the operating rules.

3. Further to its deliberations at its forty-ninth session (online, 2–5 February 2021), the Committee is expected to follow up on:

(a) Decision VIII/4d on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta;

(b) Decision VIII/4e on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of extension of the lifetime of the Rivne nuclear power plant.²

3. Submissions

4. Discussions under agenda item 3 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 of the operating rules.

5. The Committee will continue its examination of the submission by Bulgaria of 30 May 2019 of its concerns about compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Convention regarding several mining activities located close to the border with Bulgaria. Further to the Committee's decision at its forty-ninth session (Geneva, 2–5 February 2021), the two Parties were invited to participate in the session, and to present information and opinions on the matter under consideration, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Committee's structure and functions,³ scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 5 May 2021.

¹ Available at https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2014_Structure_and_functions/Implementation_Committee_structure_functions_procedures_rules.e_2014.pdf.

² For both decisions, see ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2. Available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/ece.mp_eia_30.add_2_ece.mp_eia_sea_13.add_2.pdf.

³ Available at https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2014_Structure_and_functions/Implementation_Committee_structure_functions_procedures_rules.e_2014.pdf.

The Committee will then consider the matter in a closed session before proceeding to draft its findings and recommendations.

6. The Committee will continue its examination of the submission received on 25 September 2019 from Montenegro of its concerns about compliance by Albania with its obligations under the Convention regarding the planned construction of a number of small hydropower plants on the Cijevna River.

7. It is also expected to begin its examination of the submission received on 11 December 2020 from Montenegro of its concerns about compliance by Bosnia and Herzegovina with its obligations under the Convention regarding the construction of Buk Bijela and Foča hydropower plants on the Drina River.

8. The Committee will also examine any submissions by Parties received since the Committee's previous session.

4. Committee initiatives

9. Discussions under agenda item 4 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 of the operating rules.

10. The Committee will continue to consider its initiative concerning compliance by Serbia with regard to the obligations under the Protocol with respect to the Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period up to 2025 with Projections up to 2030 and the Strategy's Implementation Programme for the Period 2017–2023 and will proceed with drafting its findings and recommendations.

11. The Committee will also continue its consideration of its initiative concerning compliance by Ukraine regarding its obligations under the Convention in respect of the construction of a large tourism complex (Svydovets mountains, Ukraine), close to the border with Hungary. It will continue preparing for formal discussions with the Parties concerned (Hungary, Romania and Ukraine) under paragraph 9 of the Committee's structure and functions, scheduled to take place at its fifty-first session (Geneva, 4–7 October 2021).

5. Information gathering

12. Discussions under agenda item 5 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 of the operating rules.

(a) Convention matters

13. The Committee will continue consideration of information it has gathered concerning:

(a) Bosnia and Herzegovina, in respect of the planned activities at the Banovici, Tuzla and Ugljevik thermal power plants and concerning the planned construction of Buk Bijela hydropower station;

(b) Switzerland, regarding the planned changes at Zurich Airport;

(c) Ukraine, regarding: the planned construction of nuclear reactors 3 and 4 at the Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant; and the activities at the Muzhiyevo goldmine.

14. The Committee is also expected to consider information it has gathered on the extension of the lifetime of nuclear power plants, including concerning: the Doel and Tihange nuclear power plants in Belgium; the Kozloduy nuclear power plant in Bulgaria; the Dukovany nuclear power plant in Czechia; the Blayais, Bugey, Chinon, Cruas, Dampierre, Gravelines, St. Laurent and Tricastin nuclear power plants in France; the Borssele nuclear power plant in the Netherlands; the Almaraz nuclear power plant in Spain; and the Rivne (units 3 and 4), South Ukrainian, Zaporizhzhya and Khmelnytsky nuclear power plants in Ukraine.

(b) Protocol matters

15. The Committee will also consider the information it has gathered concerning compliance with the provisions of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment by Poland regarding the Energy Policy until 2040 of the Government of Poland.

6. Review of implementation

16. The secretariat will bring to the attention of the Committee general and specific compliance issues identified in the sixth review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/8) and the third review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/8). The Committee is expected to take these into account in its work, in accordance with decision VIII/5 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/7) and decision IV/5 (ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3)

of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. In line with decisions VIII/5 and IV/5, the Committee will consider possible adjustments to the questionnaire to be used for the preparation of the next reviews on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol during the period 2019–2021. In doing so, the Implementation Committee will take into account the suggested improvements to the questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol (see ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.5).⁴

17. The Committee is also expected to continue its consideration of the specific issue regarding compliance by:

(a) The European Union with the Protocol identified in the first review of implementation of the Protocol;⁵

(b) North Macedonia identified in the fifth review of implementation of the Convention;⁶

(c) Serbia identified in the second review of implementation of the Protocol.⁷

7. Structure, functions and operating rules

18. Further to decision VIII/4⁸ of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and decision IV/4⁹ of the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol, the Committee is expected to continue to review and to propose revisions to its structure and functions and its operating rules with a view to enhancing coherence and reducing duplication between the two sets of rules and to increasing use of videoconferencing and other online and electronic communication tools as effective means for managing the Committee's workload. In doing so, the Committee is expected to take into account the experience gained by the Committee in the interim, including the discussions on its working methods and practice and suggestions provided at the Committee's forty-fifth session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2019/4, paras. 120–130).

⁴ This informal document was submitted to the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 26–28 November 2019) and is available on the web page for that meeting (<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-eia-and-sea-espoo-convention-8th-meeting>).

⁵ See ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/3, para. 5.

⁶ See ECE/MP.EIA/2017/9, para. 7.

⁷ See ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/9, figure 5. Although not referred to by name in figure 5, Serbia is one of the three Parties that responded to question I.10 How do you ensure sufficient quality of the reports? by selecting option c. There are no specific procedures or mechanisms.

⁸ See ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2, available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/ece.mp_eia_30.add_2_ece.mp_eia_sea_13.add_2.pdf.

⁹ See ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3, available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/ece.mp_eia_30.add_3_ece.mp_eia_sea_13.add_3.pdf.

8. Other business

19. Members of the Committee wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session

20. The Committee is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting and to confirm the date and location of its next session before the Chair formally closes the session.
