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Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Water and Health to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

Compliance Committee

Twenty-first meeting

Geneva, 15 and 16 June 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-first meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on
Tuesday, 15 June 2021, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Relevant developments since the twentieth meeting.
3. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications.
4. Review of compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates.
5. Consultation Process.
6. Facilitating compliance with the obligations under the Protocol.
7. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure.
8. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings.
9. Other business.

* As part of the accreditation procedures for meetings at the United Nations Office at Geneva, delegates are requested to register online for the meeting, as soon as possible and **no later than 1 June 2021**, through the following link: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/twenty-first-meeting-compliance-committee-under-protocol>. 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, Avenue de la Paix 14 (see the map on the Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). Please allow sufficient time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.



10. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 June, 10–10.10 a.m.

1. The Compliance Committee will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Relevant developments since the twentieth meeting

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 June, 10.10–11 a.m.

2. The secretariat will inform the Compliance Committee of relevant developments since its twentieth meeting (Geneva (online), 2 November 2020), including the outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, 14 and 15 April 2021). The Committee will then be briefed on the recent entry into force of the European Union revised Drinking Water Directive¹ and its relevance to the work under the Protocol.

3. The Committee will also be informed about the process and timeline for developing a brochure collecting good practices to ensure the affordability of drinking water supply and sanitation services in the pan-European region. The Committee will discuss its possible contribution to the brochure, with a view to its subsequent finalization and eventual submission to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its sixth session (scheduled for 2022) for endorsement.

3. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 June, 11–11.30 a.m.

4. In accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 13–22 of the annex to decision I/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on the review of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3-EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3), the Committee is expected to consider:

- (a) Any submission by Parties relating to specific issues of compliance;
- (b) Any referral by the joint secretariat relating to specific issues of compliance;
- (c) Any communication from the public relating to specific issues of compliance.

4. Review of compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 June, 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.

5. At its fifth session (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019), the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted decision V/1 on general issues of compliance, which notes with concern that, by failing to establish and publish national and/or local targets and dates for achieving them, several Parties are not in compliance with article 6 (2)–(5) of the Protocol and requests Parties to communicate their targets to the joint secretariat for wider dissemination (ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.2-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.2, paras. 8 and 9). Further to that decision, at its twentieth meeting, the Committee requested the secretariat to contact informally or through an official letter those Parties that had not communicated their targets, namely Albania and Portugal, to ask them to provide information about their progress in the target-setting processes (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2020/4-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2020/CC2/06, para. 6).

¹ Directive 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption, *Official Journal of the European Union*, L 435 (2020), pp. 1–62.

6. With regard to Belgium, at its twentieth meeting, the Committee noted with appreciation that the Brussels Capital Region had communicated in September 2020 updated information on the implementation of the Protocol, including on its targets, through the submission of its report, as a complement to the national report submitted by Belgium within the Protocol's fourth reporting exercise (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2020/4-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2020/CC2/06, para. 7). The Committee commended the efforts made, the progress accomplished as well as the good quality of the information provided. It also noted, however, that additional information would be needed to be able to identify concrete and measurable targets and requested the secretariat to send an official letter to this effect.

7. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the related developments and responses received from the above-mentioned Parties. Based on this information, the Committee will discuss its next steps, as well as possibly other issues related to target setting, as appropriate.

5. Consultation Process

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 June, 3–6 p.m.

8. At its twentieth meeting, the Committee noted with appreciation that the Russian Federation had accepted its invitation to engage in the Consultation Process, in order to benefit from the tailored advice and assistance of the Committee on the situation regarding target setting under the Protocol. The Committee therefore established a dedicated working group, composed of several Committee members and chaired by Ms. Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Vice-Chair of the Committee, and discussed the arrangements for the consultation. In particular, the Committee decided that the consultation would comprise the following components:

(a) A stocktaking exercise to ascertain the specific needs and expectations of the Russian Federation in connection with its situation regarding water, sanitation and health and possible challenges in setting targets under the Protocol;

(b) Dissemination of relevant guidelines to facilitate implementation of the Protocol, based on the results of the stocktaking exercise;

(c) Provision of advice in writing and discussion thereof with the country representatives during the Committee meetings planned for 2021 and 2022;

(d) Follow-up on the implementation of the advice.

9. The Committee requested the secretariat to inform the Russian Federation of the above arrangements, as well as to ask for additional information on the situation regarding water, sanitation, hygiene and health (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2020/4-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2020/CC2/06, paras. 8–10) and to invite the relevant country representatives to attend the Committee's twenty-first meeting.

10. Based on the response from the Russian Federation, the Committee will proceed with the consultation by analysing the information received and engaging in discussion with the country representatives, as relevant.

6. Facilitating compliance with the obligations under the Protocol

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 June, 10 a.m.–noon

11. At its nineteenth meeting (Geneva (online), 15 May 2020), the Committee, acting within its competence to examine compliance issues and make recommendations or take measures as appropriate (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3-EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3, decision I/2 on review of compliance, annex, para. 12), decided to work on an interpretive note aimed at clarifying the provisions of the Protocol related to water, environment, sanitation and hygiene in order to highlight the public health dimension of the Protocol, including in connection with the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2020/2-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2020/CC/06, para. 18). At its twentieth meeting, the Committee discussed the extended outline of the note prepared by Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque as the rapporteur for coordinating the development of the note (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2020/4-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2020/CC2/06, para. 12).

12. The Committee will discuss the advanced draft of the note to be prepared by Ms. de Albuquerque and agree on the next steps in developing the document, including work-sharing arrangements between the Committee members for providing their inputs.

7. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 June, noon–12.45 p.m.

13. The Committee will discuss concrete initiatives and specific steps to be taken to raise awareness of the compliance procedure. The Committee members will report on their recent or planned efforts to present the compliance procedure at various forums and events, as well as to promote it within the network of non-governmental organizations active in the areas of water, sanitation, hygiene and public health, as well as human rights, migrants and refugees.

14. The secretariat will then inform the Compliance Committee about the progress in developing a promotional brochure on the Protocol and invite input from the Committee, as relevant. The secretariat will also report on the relevant activities of the Implementation Committee of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

15. The Committee will then be invited to discuss the arrangements for a planned webinar aimed at highlighting the legal dimension of work under the Protocol, to be organized in the framework of a series of thematic webinars under the Protocol aimed at raising awareness of its relevance for response to and future preparedness for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and other infectious diseases.

8. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 June, 12.45–12.50 p.m.

16. The Committee will discuss its future programme of work and agree on issues for consideration at its next meetings. The Committee will also agree on the dates of its twenty-second and twenty-third meetings.

9. Other business

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 June, 12.50–12.55 p.m.

17. Committee members wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

10. Adoption of the report

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 June, 12.55–1 p.m.

18. The Committee will agree on the modalities for the preparation and adoption of the report on its twenty-first meeting.
