Key highlights of the 4th cycle assessment-reporting cycle 2019

Most targets relate to safe and efficient management of sanitation and equitable access.

Targets address the increasing effects of climate change as an emerging issue.

Improvements in the legal framework are often considered as a first step to implement targets.

Lack of funding is a challenge for implementing targets, especially those on infrastructure development.

The Committee noted with appreciation that all Parties had submitted their national summary reports within the fourth reporting exercise under the Protocol and that the reports were, overall, of good quality!
Renewed membership of the CC in 2020

New members: (nominating country)
Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque (PT),
Mr. Morten Nicholls (N)
Ms. Anna Tsvietkova (UA)
Mr. Sergei Vinogradov (D)

Members:
Mr. Jorge E. Viñuales Chair (CH)
Ms Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper V Chair (H)
Ms. Ingrid Chorus (D)
Mr. Vadim Ni (CH)
Ms. Natalja Sliachtic (LT)

Due to the pandemic virtual CC meetings were held in 2020
Main achievements since 2020

1. **Interpretive Note and its summary was prepared by the Chair** on the provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health and their relationship with European Union law governing water and health.

2. **Facilitating compliance** with the obligations under the Protocol

   The Committee had 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. Catarina d A is the rapporteur for the note.

3. **Committee’s role in stimulating progress with target setting**

   - Bosnia and Herzegovina; Portugal; and Spain communicated targets.
   - Belgium submitted a complement to its report related to Brussels Capital Region.
   - Montenegro still has time to fulfil the obligation.
   - Albania is the only country where information is still missing.

4. **Committee’s role in consultation**
Compliance Committee—consultation process

Compliance Committee consisting of nine independent members serving in their personal capacity

New consultation process as of 2011:
- Assist Parties in developing an accurate analysis of their situation (enabling them to set targets under the Protocol),
- Provide recommendations to the Parties on how to improve their situation
- Assist Parties in seeking support from donors, specialized agencies and other competent bodies

Consultation criteria with Parties:
- (a) The Party had difficulties in implementing the main obligations of the Protocol (e.g., setting targets and reporting under the Protocol);
- (b) No targeted assistance had been received so far by the Party under consideration;
- (c) The Party was eligible for funding with regard to the Consultation Process;
- (d) The country had been a Party for a considerable period of time vis-à-vis new Parties;
- (e) The Party or Parties represented different subregions;
- (f) The implementation problems at issue were faced by a group of Parties
Consultation process

Ongoing Consultation

The Russian Federation accepted the invitation to engage, the first consultation will be held in June 2021.

Zsuzsanna KK is the rapporteur of the dedicated Working Group.

Previous steps with Russia

- **14–16 Nov. 2016**
  - The MoP at its Fourth session (Geneva, 14–16 November 2016) requested Parties to communicate their targets to the joint secretariat. The Secretariat contacted Russia to communicate its targets.

- **19–21 Nov. 2019**
  - At the fifth session of the MoP (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019) it was communicated that there is political will from the relevant technical ministries to set and implement targets under the Protocol.

- **5–6 Nov. 2018**
  - At its seventeenth meeting (Geneva, 5–6 November 2018), the Committee decided that the situation would be reviewed within the fourth reporting exercise under the Protocol.

- **Oct. 2020**
  - The Russian Federation has accepted to engage in the Consultation Process in October 2020.

Consultation Process with Albania, Azerbaijan (Bosnia and Herzegovina as observer) in October 2015

2 steps consultations with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in March and November 2018
Plans for future work in this area

Awareness raising

The Committee is looking into promoting its functions in the human rights and public health community.

A webinar around the topics of the interpretive note is planned to be organized before the end of 2021.

Submission

Communication to the Compliance Committee on the Protocol on Water and Health:

Co-Secretary of the Protocol on Water and Health
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Environment Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 30 30
email: protocol.water_health@unece.org
Website:
https://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_text_protocol.html

Still no submissions, referrals and communications!
Please see the Guidance!

The Committee will continue working on consultations with Russia, on the interpretive note and eventually the analysis of the reports within the fifth reporting cycle.
Involve the public

The Protocol provides for the possibility of members of the public to make communications to the Compliance Committee on cases of alleged non-compliance with the Protocol.

Communications may be submitted to the Committee by any member of the public.

To submit a communication:
No need to be a citizen of the State Party concerned or to be based in its territory, neither need to demonstrate injury or to be specifically affected, and the communicant does not need to be represented by or seek advice from a lawyer.
Thank you for your attention!