



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 December 2021

Original: English only

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

Fifty-second session

Geneva, 1–4 February 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-second session

To be held online, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 1 February 2022*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4d–e.
3. Submissions.
4. Committee initiatives.
5. Information gathering:
 - (a) Convention matters;
 - (b) Protocol matters.
6. Review of implementation.
7. Structure, functions and operating rules.

* 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 **14 January 2022**, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/36281/>. In case of difficulty registering, please email the secretariat (eia.conv@un.org; maricar.delacruz@un.org).



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 fifty-first session (Geneva, 4–7 October 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

4. To enhance the efficiency of its proceedings, the Committee will hold informal consultations with Ukraine and the Parties concerned³ regarding the progress made by Ukraine in implementing decisions VIII/4d–e.

3. Submissions

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

6. The Committee will continue to consider 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. In accordance with the Committee's structure and functions and rules 11–14 of its operating rules, the Committee is expected to agree on its draft findings and recommendations with a view to transmitting them to Bulgaria and Serbia for comments and representations prior to finalizing them at its fifty-third session (Geneva, 10–13 May 2022).

7. 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

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.

³ The Party concerned invited to the informal consultations with regard to the follow-up on decision VIII/4d concerning the Bystroe Canal project is Romania. The Parties concerned invited to participate in the informal consultation regarding the follow-up on decision VIII/4e concerning the lifetime extension of units 1 and 2 of the Rivne nuclear power plant are Austria, Belarus and Poland.

hydropower plants on the Cijevna River. As agreed at its fifty-first session, the Committee, in accordance with its structure and functions and rules 11–14 of its operating rules, is expected to draft its findings and recommendations with a view to transmitting them to Albania and Montenegro for comments and representations prior to finalizing them at its fifty-third session.

8. The Committee is also expected to continue 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 hydropower plant on the Drina River. Further to the Committee's decision at its fifty-first session and based on the Parties' responses to the Committee's letters, dated 15 October 2021, the two Parties are invited to participate in the session, on Wednesday, 2 February 2022, with a view to presenting information and opinions on the matter under consideration, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Committee's structure and functions.⁴ The Committee will then consider the matter in a closed session before proceeding to draft its findings and recommendations.

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

4. Committee initiatives

10. 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.

11. The Committee is expected to finalize its findings and recommendations concerning its initiative regarding 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, taking into account comments and representations from Serbia and the Parties concerned expected by 5 January 2022.

12. The Committee will also continue to consider 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 and Romania. Further to the outcome of the discussions with Hungary, Romania and Ukraine held at its fifty-first session,⁵ the Committee is expected to agree on its draft findings and recommendations with a view to transmitting them to the Parties concerned for comments and representations prior to finalizing them at its fifty-third session.

5. Information gathering

13. 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

14. Following the outcome of the informal discussions with Hungary⁶ and Ukraine at its previous session,⁷ the Committee will continue its consideration of information it has gathered concerning Ukraine on the:

⁴ Available at https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2014_Structure_and_functions/Implementation_Committee_structure_functions_procedures_rules.e_2014.pdf.

⁵ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/6, paras. 40–44. Available at <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2021/10/reports/report-implementation-committee-its-fifty-first-session>.

⁶ Hungary only participated in informal discussions regarding information gathering procedure EIA/IC/INFO/13 concerning the Muzhiyevo gold mine (see ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/6, paras. 53–55).

⁷ See ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/6, paras. 53–55 and 59–65.

- (a) Planned construction of nuclear reactors 3 and 4 at the Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant;
- (b) Activities at the Muzhiyevo goldmine.

15. The Committee is also expected to consider information it has gathered on the extension of the lifetime of nuclear power plants, including concerning: the Tihange nuclear power plant 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

16. 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

17. 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.

18. The Committee will continue its consideration of the specific issue regarding compliance by Serbia identified in the second review of implementation of the Protocol.⁸ Following comments by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment at its tenth session (Geneva (hybrid), 1–3 December 2021),⁹ it is also expected to continue its work related to preparing the templates for reporting of the European Union under the Convention and the Protocol.

7. Structure, functions and operating rules

19. Further to decision VIII/4¹⁰ of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and decision IV/4¹¹ 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 of 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 (Geneva, 10–13 September 2019),¹² fiftieth (Geneva, 4–7 May 2021)¹³ and fifty-first¹⁴ sessions.

⁸ 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”.

⁹ See ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/2, forthcoming.

¹⁰ See ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2.

¹¹ See ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3.

¹² ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2019/4, paras. 120–130.

¹³ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/4, paras. 104–105.

¹⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/6, paras. 56–58.

8. Other business

20. 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

21. 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.
