



# 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

#### Fifty-fifth session

Geneva, 31 January–3 February 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

## Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session

To be held in Geneva (online), starting at 10 a.m.  
on Tuesday, 31 January 2023\*

### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4 a–c.
3. Submissions.
4. Committee initiatives.
5. Information gathering.
6. Review of implementation.
7. Structure, functions and operating rules.
8. Other business.

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\* Members of the Committee are requested to register online at least two weeks before the start of the meeting, i.e. by **17 January 2023**, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1002035/>. Should any difficulties be encountered when attempting to register, please email the secretariat ([eia.conv@un.org](mailto:eia.conv@un.org); [maricar.delacruz@un.org](mailto:maricar.delacruz@un.org)).



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.<sup>1</sup> The Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol will be invited to adopt the present agenda.

### 2. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4 a–c<sup>2</sup>

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

3. The Committee is expected to follow up on actions to be taken by the concerned Parties further to:

(a) Decision VIII/4a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(b) Decision VIII/4b on compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(c) Decision VIII/4c on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets.

### 3. Submissions

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

5. The Committee will continue its consideration 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/Cem River (EIA/IC/S/7).<sup>3</sup> The Committee is expected to complete its draft findings and recommendations, taking into account the updated information to be provided by the two concerned Parties by 1 December 2022, with a view to transmitting them to the Parties concerned for comments and representations prior to finalizing them at its fifty-sixth session (Geneva, 2–5 May 2023).

6. The Committee will continue its consideration of the submission by Montenegro expressing concerns about compliance by Bosnia and Herzegovina with its obligations under the Convention and the Protocol in respect of the construction of Buk Bijela hydropower plant on the Drina River. It is expected to finalize its findings and recommendations, taking

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2014\\_Structure\\_and\\_functions/Implementation\\_Committee\\_structure\\_functions\\_procedures\\_rules.e\\_2014.pdf](https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2014_Structure_and_functions/Implementation_Committee_structure_functions_procedures_rules.e_2014.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2. With regard to decisions VIII/4 d–e and most other compliance issues concerning Ukraine, the Committee agreed in its fifty-third session (Geneva, 10–13 May 2022) that, in the light of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, it would postpone their consideration to its subsequent sessions (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/4, para. 16 (a)), available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ece\\_mp.eia\\_ic\\_2022\\_4\\_advance\\_edited.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/ece_mp.eia_ic_2022_4_advance_edited.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> See <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/eiaics7-albania>.

into account the comments and representations requested from the two Parties by 3 January 2023.<sup>4</sup>

7. Having finalized its findings and recommendations further to the submission by Bulgaria expressing its concerns about compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Convention with respect to several mining-related activities in Karamanica, Popovica, Podvirovi and the Grot mine,<sup>5</sup> the Committee is expected to prepare a related decision on compliance to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth session (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023).

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 its operating rules.

10. The Committee is expected to finalize its draft findings and recommendations on compliance by Bulgaria with its obligations under the Convention with respect to the lifetime extension of units 5 and 6 of Kozloduy nuclear power plant taking into account the comments and representations requested from the Parties concerned (Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia) by 3 January 2023.<sup>6</sup>

11. Further to the hearing during the Committee's fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 4–7 October 2022) with Belgium and Germany regarding the lifetime extension of unit 1 of Tihange nuclear power plant by Belgium,<sup>7</sup> the Committee is expected to complete its draft findings and recommendations. After their completion, the Committee will transmit them to the two Parties concerned for comments and representations [by 4 April 2023 (to be confirmed)], before finalizing them at its fifty-sixth session, taking into account the comments made.

12. The Committee will also continue the considerations of its initiative concerning the lifetime extension of units 1–4 of Dukovany nuclear power plant by Czechia, following the hearing at its fifty-fourth session with Austria, Czechia and Germany.<sup>8</sup> The Committee is expected to complete its draft findings and recommendations. Once completed, the Committee will transmit them to the Parties concerned for comments and representations [by 4 April 2023 (to be confirmed)], before finalizing them at its fifty-sixth session, taking into account the comments made.

13. Further to the finalization of the Committee's findings and recommendations on compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Protocol in respect of the Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period up to 2025 with Projections up to 2030 and the Programme for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Period 2017–2023,<sup>9</sup> the Committee is expected to prepare the text of the related draft compliance decision for consideration by the 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 at its fifth session (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023).

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<sup>4</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/7, paras. 23–24 (advance edited copy, available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ece\\_mp.eia\\_ic\\_2022\\_7\\_advance\\_edited.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ece_mp.eia_ic_2022_7_advance_edited.pdf)).

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 28; and ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/8, available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/ece\\_mp.eia\\_ic\\_2022\\_8\\_e.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-08/ece_mp.eia_ic_2022_8_e.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/7, para. 31.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 32–35.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 36–39.

<sup>9</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/5, available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ece\\_mp.eia\\_ic\\_2022\\_5\\_e.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ece_mp.eia_ic_2022_5_e.pdf).

## 5. Information gathering

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

### Convention matters

15. Following the Committee's informal discussions with Belarus regarding its law on State ecological expertise, strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment during the Committee's fifty-fourth session,<sup>10</sup> the Committee will continue its consideration of the matter.

16. The Committee will further continue its consideration of the information it has gathered concerning the lifetime extension of Borssele nuclear power plant (Netherlands) and 32 units of Blayais, Bugey, Chinon, Cruas, Dampierre, Gravelines, St. Laurent and Tricastin nuclear power plants (France).

## 6. Review of implementation

17. Time permitting, the Committee will continue its consideration of the specific compliance issues concerning:

(a) Kyrgyzstan, identified through the sixth review of the implementation of the Convention;<sup>11</sup>

(b) Serbia, identified during the second review of the implementation of the Protocol;<sup>12</sup>

(c) Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, identified through the third review of the implementation of the Protocol.<sup>13</sup>

18. The Committee is also expected to continue its consideration of the specific issue regarding compliance by the European Union with the Protocol identified during the first review of the implementation of the Protocol.<sup>14</sup>

19. As requested by the Meetings of the Parties,<sup>15</sup> the Committee is further expected to continue its consideration of the draft reporting templates for the European Union for the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, taking into account the outcomes of the online consultations to be held in December with the representatives of the European Commission, and Czechia, the country holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2022, on an as-yet-unspecified date during the week of 12–16 December. Once completed, the draft reporting templates will be submitted for consideration by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment at its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023).<sup>16</sup>

## 7. Structure, functions and operating rules

20. Further to the Committee's deliberations at its fifty-fourth session, and in accordance with paragraph 18 of decision VIII/4<sup>17</sup> of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention, paragraph 14 of decision IV/4<sup>18</sup> of the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol and subsection

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<sup>10</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/7, paras. 41–43.

<sup>11</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/2020/8, paras. 15–16.

<sup>12</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/9, paras. 37–39.

<sup>13</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/8, paras. 23, 25 and 56.

<sup>14</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/3, para. 5.

<sup>15</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2, decision VIII/5, para. 6; and ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3, decision IV/5, para. 6.

<sup>16</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/2, para. 14.

<sup>17</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2.

<sup>18</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3.

II.A.3 of the workplan for 2021–2023,<sup>19</sup> the Committee is expected to continue its review of its structure and functions and its operating rules, with a view to preparing proposals for possible amendments for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth session.

## **8. Other business**

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

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

22. 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.

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<sup>19</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2, annex I.