

**Economic Commission for Europe****World Health Organization
Regional Office for Europe**

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

Sixth session

Geneva, 16–18 November 2022

Report of the Meeting of the Parties on its sixth session**Addendum****Decision VI/1
General issues of compliance**

The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol,

Considering its decision I/2 on the review of compliance,¹

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Compliance Committee to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health,²

Consultation Process

1. *Notes with appreciation* the Consultation Process held by the Compliance Committee with the Russian Federation and endorses the outcomes of the Process;
2. *Encourages* Parties facing challenges in implementing the Protocol on Water and Health to engage in discussions with the Compliance Committee and to seek, when necessary, support from the Committee, taking the opportunities offered by the Consultation Process;
3. *Calls on* Parties to provide sufficient resources to the Committee to enable the conduct of the Consultation Process in a timely and comprehensive manner;

¹ ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3.

² ECE/MP.WH/2022/6–EUCHP/2219533/3.1/2022/MOP-6/12.

General issues of compliance

4. *Recalls* that, by failing to establish and publish national and/or local targets and dates for their achievement, several Parties are not in compliance with article 6 (2)–(5) of the Protocol on Water and Health;
5. *Also recalls* that, in accordance with paragraph 7 (c) of decision IV/2 on general issues of compliance,³ targets should be communicated to the joint secretariat for wider dissemination;
6. *Welcomes* the information about the targets and target setting process provided by Parties in response to the letters sent by the secretariat at the request of the Compliance Committee;
7. *Urges* Parties that have not yet completed the target setting process under the Protocol to speed up and finalize this process making use of the existing guidance material, in particular the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*⁴ and the *Collection of Good Practices and Lessons Learned on Target Setting and Reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health*;⁵
8. *Recommends* that each Party establish a strong national mechanism for coordination between water, environment, health and other relevant authorities as a key prerequisite for the effective implementation of the Protocol, and that such national coordination mechanisms be involved in the preparation of the summary reports;
9. *Stresses*, in relation to targets, that:
 - (a) Targets should be clear and measurable to allow Parties to monitor the progress achieved;
 - (b) Parties should explicitly indicate which targets have been set under the Protocol;
 - (c) When a target has been achieved, Parties should consider whether to establish a new target or to maintain the level of protection and report accordingly in their summary reports;
10. *Encourages* Parties to consider, when setting targets under article 6 of the Protocol, internationally recognized best practices for the safe management of water supply and sanitation, such as World Health Organization-recommended water safety plans and sanitation safety plans, as well as technical issues of relevance, including the removal of micropollutants;
11. *Urges* Parties to comply with the provisions related to public participation in the process of setting targets and target dates and in the overall implementation of the Protocol, including by following the recommendations of the *Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health*⁶ and the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*;
12. *Expresses deep concern* at the effects of the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine on the situation of water and health in the territory of Ukraine;

Awareness-raising and cooperation with human rights bodies

13. *Notes with appreciation* the activities carried out by the Compliance Committee on awareness-raising on the compliance procedure, including the preparation of a summary of the interpretive note entitled “The provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health and their relationship with the European Union law governing water and health”,⁷ endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties through decision V/1 on general issues of compliance;⁸

³ ECE/MP.WH/13/Add.2–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/06/Add.2.

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.E.12.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.16.II.E.20.

⁶ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WH/9.

⁷ ECE/MP.WH/2019/5/Add.1–EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/11/Add.1.

⁸ ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.2–EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.2.

14. *Encourages* the Compliance Committee to explore further opportunities to promote its work;

Reporting under the Protocol in accordance with article 7

15. *Notes with appreciation* that all twenty-seven Parties submitted their national summary reports within the fifth reporting cycle;

16. *Commends* those other States that have submitted summary reports on a voluntary basis and welcomes the participation of States not yet Parties to the Protocol in future reporting cycles;

17. *Emphasizes*, in line with paragraph 7 of decision II/1 on general issues of compliance,⁹ the importance of the timeliness of reporting, and reiterates that failure to submit summary reports within the specified deadlines, i.e. 210 days before the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, is inconsistent with the requirements of the Protocol;

18. *Reiterates* the importance of using the revised guidelines and template¹⁰ for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol, including by filling in all sections of the template;

19. *Stresses*, in relation to reporting, that:

(a) Information provided in the summary reports should be complete, consistent, accurate and of good quality;

(b) Where Parties choose not to provide information, they should specify the reasons why;

(c) When describing action taken under the relevant sections of the template for summary reports, Parties should refer, as appropriate, to the most relevant and recent developments;

20. *Urges* Parties to provide concrete and good quality information in their summary reports on the targets set under article 6 of the Protocol, including on the baseline situation, the progress achieved towards meeting the target and the target date for achievement;

21. *Recognizes* that Parties that are member States of the European Union may refer to European Union legislation when reporting on the implementation of the Protocol but that, in doing so, they must clearly explain the relationship between the fulfilment of their obligations under the Protocol and the European Union legislation and/or domestic law transposing such legislation;

22. *Requests* Parties to provide complete information on all the relevant provisions of the Protocol, including articles 9–14, in order to allow for the assessment of the overall implementation of the Protocol in future reporting cycles;

23. *Also requests* Parties to involve all relevant stakeholders, in particular the public and civil society, in the reporting process, in accordance with the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting* adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

⁹ ECE/MP.WH/4/Add.2–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/Add.2.

¹⁰ ECE/MP.WH/13/Add.2–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/06/Add.2, decision IV/1, annexes I–II.