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Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
Second meeting
(Sofia, 26-27 February 2001)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING

**to be held at the Kempinski Hotel Zografski in Sofia,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 26 February 2001 */**

1. Opening ceremony.
2. Constitution of the second meeting of the Parties.
3. Statements by Ministers and heads of delegations.
4. Review of work carried out by the Working Group and adoption of decisions (MP.EIA/2001/1 to 13).
5. Discussion and adoption of amendments (MP.EIA/2001/14).

*/ The second meeting of the Parties will be held in Sofia at the invitation of the Government of Bulgaria. The provisional agenda has been prepared by the secretariat in agreement with the Government of Bulgaria.

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6. Adoption of the Sofia Ministerial Declaration (MP.EIA/2001/15).
7. Date, venue and election of officers for the third meeting of the Parties.
8. Other business.
9. Review of decisions.
10. Closing of the meeting.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Sunday, 25 February (Seminar on the tenth anniversary of the Convention)

a.m. (10.00-13.00) see annex I

Monday, 26 February (Meeting of the Parties)

a.m. (10.00-13.00) Items 1, 2 and 3

p.m. (15.00-18.00) Item 3 (cont'd) and 4

Tuesday, 27 February (Meeting of the Parties)

a.m. (10.00-13.00) Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10
Press conference

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The second meeting of the Parties will start on Monday, 26 February 2001 at 10 a.m. with the delivery of policy statements. It will then review work done between the first and second meeting of the Parties and adopt decisions, amendments and the Ministerial Declaration.

A press conference will be organized on Tuesday, 27 February 2001 at 1 p.m.

The meeting of the Parties will be preceded by a Seminar on the tenth anniversary of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (for further details, see annex I). The Meeting of the Parties may wish to discuss and take into account the items discussed at the Seminar. Practical information on the Meeting of the Parties is included in annex II.

Item 1: Opening ceremony

The Minister of Environment and Water of Bulgaria will open the second meeting of the Parties. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe will make an opening statement.

Item 2: Constitution of the second meeting of the Parties

- (a) Election of officers

Following the rules of procedure, the Meeting of the Parties will elect its officers.

- (b) Status of ratification and credentials

The secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties about the status of ratification of the Convention, declarations made by Parties upon deposit of their instruments of ratification, the representation at the second meeting and the credentials submitted by the Parties. **/

- (c) Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Statements by Ministers and heads of delegations

The Ministers and heads of delegations will be invited to deliver statements, including declarations related to the implementation of the Convention that may call for specific action in the years to come. In their statements, the Ministers and heads of delegations may also reflect on the tenth anniversary of the Convention, on how the implementation of the provisions of the

**/ Delegations are requested to complete the registration form (see annex III), and submit it to the persons indicated. Parties to the Convention are invited to submit their credentials to the secretariat before the opening of the meeting.

Convention has facilitated international cooperation related to transboundary impacts, how bilateral or multilateral agreements have strengthened the application of the Convention, how the Convention should develop in the future, in particular in the light of the proposed protocol on strategic environmental assessment, and on the relationship between the Convention and other ECE Conventions. Representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations will be invited to inform the Meeting of possibilities for cooperation on activities as decided by the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 4: Review of work carried out by the Working Group and adoption of decisions

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to review the work done under the auspices of the Working Group and in particular adopt decisions on:

(i) Bilateral and multilateral cooperation (MP.EIA/2001/1)

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to acknowledge and review the work, including the guidance on bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the framework of the Convention. The objective of the work was to share information and experiences on what Parties and non-Parties had achieved through bilateral and multilateral agreements or arrangements and other forms of cooperation in order to implement their obligations under the Convention.

(ii) The practical application of the Convention (MP.EIA/2001/2)

The Meeting of the Parties will review the work on the practical application of the Convention. Case studies have been analysed and suggestions for strengthening its practical implementation have been made.

(iii) Public participation in a transboundary context (MP.EIA/2001/3)

Public participation is an important part of the Convention and in order to assist competent authorities and the public in organizing effective public participation in environmental impact assessment (EIA) in a transboundary context under the Convention, draft guidance has been prepared to further develop national regulations and bilateral and multilateral agreements in this respect.

(iv) Review of compliance (MP.EIA/2001/4)

To promote and improve compliance with the Convention and in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 2, it is proposed that an implementation committee, consisting of eight Parties to the Convention, should be established. The implementation committee would review Parties' compliance with their obligations under the Convention in an effort to assist them to meet these obligations fully. The Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment proposes to the Meeting of the Parties that the following Parties should become members of the implementation committee: Armenia, Canada, Finland, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and United Kingdom.

(v) Recent EIA developments and links with other ECE conventions (MP.EIA/2001/5)

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to review recent EIA developments and links with other conventions. Since the signing of the Convention environmental impact assessment has continued to evolve. Moreover, the Convention has a number of elements in common with other ECE conventions, as environmental impact assessment is a cross-sectoral issue.

(vi) The database on environmental impact assessment (MP.EIA/2001/6)

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to review the running and the use of the database on environmental impact assessment (ENIMPAS) established at its first meeting and to decide on the continuation of the database.

(vii) The networking facility attached to the database on environmental impact assessment (MP.EIA/2001/7)

As interactive communication amongst Parties and non-Parties contributes to the effective implementation of the Convention, the Meeting of the Parties is expected to approve the version of the networking facility proposed in document MP.EIA/2001/7.

(viii) The strengthening of subregional cooperation (MP.EIA/2001/8)

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to review the work on subregional cooperation as this type of cooperation amongst Parties and non-Parties stimulates the ratification process and the practical application of the Convention.

(ix) Strategic environmental assessment (MP.EIA/2001/9)

Taking into account Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Convention and paragraph 10 of the Oslo Ministerial Declaration issued at its first meeting, the Meeting of the Parties is expected to adopt a decision on the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc working group for the preparation of a protocol on strategic environmental assessment for possible adoption at the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Kiev, Ukraine, May 2003).

(x) Review of the Convention and possible amendments (MP.EIA/2001/10)

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to adopt a decision on the review and possible amendment of the Convention. A comprehensive review of experience gained in its implementation would then be undertaken and amendments put forward at the third meeting.

(xi) Work-plan (MP.EIA/2001/11);

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to adopt its work-plan for the period up to its third meeting.

(xii) Financial assistance to the countries in transition (MP.EIA/2001/12)

Taking into account the importance of broad participation by all Parties and the need to facilitate the participation of certain countries with economies in transition, the Meeting of the Parties is expected to adopt a decision on this issue.

(xiii) The budget and financial arrangements for the period until its third meeting (MP.EIA/2001/13)

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to adopt a decision on a budget and financial arrangements, recognizing that the successful implementation of the Convention depends on adequate administrative and financial resources being made available to support and maintain the initiatives necessary to achieve its goals.

Item 5: **Discussion and adoption of amendments**

The Meeting will discuss and consider whether to adopt any proposed amendments to the Convention (MP.EIA/2001/14).

Item 6: **Adoption of the Sofia Ministerial Declaration**

The Ministers and heads of delegations will adopt a declaration setting out the main directions for the implementation and objectives of the Convention, on the basis of a draft prepared by the Working Group (MP.EIA/2001/15).

Item 7: **Date, venue and election of officers for the third meeting of the Parties**

In accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure, the Meeting of the Parties shall set the indicative dates for its third meeting and agree on its venue. Delegations may wish to examine the possibility of hosting the third meeting of the Parties. In accordance with rule 23, paragraph 6, the Meeting of the Parties may decide that the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment may meet in the period between ordinary meetings and agree on its venue. In accordance with rule 19, the Meeting shall elect the officers for its third meeting.

Item 8: **Other business**

At the time of writing the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Item 9: **Review of decisions**

The Chairperson will sum up all the main decisions taken by the Parties at their second meeting. The Meeting of the Parties is invited to entrust the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with finalizing the report of the second meeting.

Item 10: **Closing of the meeting**

A representative of the host country will close the meeting.

Annex I

SEMINAR

**The tenth anniversary of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary context**

Organized in conjunction with the second meeting of the Parties to the Convention by the Ministry of the Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria at the Kempinski Hotel Zografski, Sofia, Sunday, 25 February 2001, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Programme

10 a.m.	Opening of the Seminar
10.10	The road from Espoo to Sofia (Ms. Soveri - Finland)
10.40	Discussion
10.50	Legal aspects of the Convention, compared to other ECE environmental conventions (Mr. Szell - United Kingdom)
11.20	Discussion
11.30	Coffee break
11.50	The methodology of EIA (Mr. Laniado - Italy)
12.20	Discussions
1 p.m.	Closing of the Seminar

* The Seminar is open to representatives, experts and other interested persons. The invited speakers will prepare written presentations, which will be made available to the participants. The secretariat will circulate in advance a summary of the presentations in order to encourage participants to take an active part in the discussions.

Annex II

GENERAL INFORMATION

MEETING VENUE

The meeting will be held at **the Kempinski Hotel Zografski**. The luxurious 21-storey hotel dominates one of the most beautiful areas of Sofia - at the foot of Vitosha Mountain, a 15 minute walk from the city centre. It offers more than 400 air-conditioned rooms, restaurants and bars, casino, indoor swimming pool, sauna, solarium, massage and bowling, voice mail, full bank service, conference halls and rooms, fully equipped business centre.

OFFICIAL AGENT

The Company for International Meetings - CIM Ltd. is appointed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Waters to be the official agent for the meeting. Participants are requested to contact CIM directly for all the services mentioned on the reservation form.

REGISTRATION

Preliminary registration: Participants are requested to register by sending in the completed reservation form not later than 15 January 2001 to CIM's address below with a copy to the ECE secretariat.

When registering on site participants will receive the meeting materials, can arrange the departure transfers and make the payments for accommodation and the tourist programme. The Registration Desk will be located in a conference room at Kempinski Hotel Zografski and will operate from Sunday, 25 February at 8 a.m.

PRE-MEETING PROGRAMME

A Seminar on EIA in a transboundary context will be organized in view of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Convention. For more details, see annex I to this document.

LANGUAGES

Simultaneous interpretation into English, French, Russian and Bulgarian will be provided for all sessions of the meeting on 26 and 27 February. Interpretation for the Seminar on 25 February will be in English and Bulgarian.

TRANSPORT

Transfers upon arrival and departure will be organized for all participants according to the information given in the registration form. Precise travel information should be given to CIM at least two weeks prior to arrival.

A shuttle bus will be provided between the meeting venue and the other hotels from 25 to 27 February, twice a day.

ACCOMMODATION

- Kempinski Hotel Zografski (5 stars) is the meeting venue.
- Rodina Hotel (4 stars) is situated in the very centre of the city and welcomes both business people and tourists.
- Hemus Hotel (3 stars) is within walking distance from the meeting venue and has about 140 rooms, a restaurant and lobby bar.

Hotel rates are in US dollars and include bed and breakfast, insurance, service tax and transfers from and to the airport. These rates are valid only if the booking has been made through CIM. Any change of booking must be sent to CIM Ltd. Check-in time is 2 p.m. Check-out time is 12 noon.

SOCIAL EVENTS (free)

Sightseeing tour of Sofia	Sunday, 25 February, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Welcome cocktail	Sunday, 25 February, 8 p.m., Kempinski Hotel Zografski
Official Dinner	Monday, 26 February, 8 p.m., Sheraton Hotel Sofia

TOURIST PROGRAMME (charge required)

Bulgarian Folklore Evening Tuesday, 27 February, 7 p.m.

An enjoyable evening in a folk-style restaurant with national dishes, folk dancing and a tasting of Bulgarian wines. Price per person: 25 US\$.

PAYMENTS

Advance payments for accommodation and the tourist programme should be made to the bank account of CIM Ltd., indicated on the reservation form.

On-site payments should be settled on arrival at the Registration Desk at Kempinski Hotel Zografski in convertible currency, traveller's cheques or credit cards.

CONFIRMATION LETTER

A letter of confirmation will be sent to participants on receipt of the registration form and the respective payment.

CREDENTIALS

Those attending the meeting are reminded of the need to have the appropriate credentials. It is important to note that rule 16 of the rules of procedure requires the credentials of all representatives to be submitted to the secretariat, if possible not later than twenty-four hours after the opening of the meeting, so that the officers (i.e. the President and Vice-Presidents) may examine them and report to the Meeting as they are required to do under rule 17.

It is essential that appropriate credentials be taken to the meeting. Otherwise there will be significant procedural implications. Participants who need further explanations should contact the UN/ECE secretariat well in advance of the meeting.

PASSPORTS and VISAS

Entry visas, if needed, can be obtained from the Bulgarian Embassies or consulate offices.

MONETARY SYSTEM

The national currency is the Bulgarian lev. Bank notes of the following denominations are in circulation: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 leva. 1 lev = 1 DM.

CLIMATE

Moderate climate: mild spring and autumn, hot summer, cold, snowy winters. The weather in February is cold and snowy. Daily temperatures range from 0 to 5 ° C.

TIME

Winter time: GMT + 2 hrs. (October to March)

Summer time: GMT + 3 hrs. (April to September)

Annex III

REGISTRATION FORM

**Second meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact
Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Sofia, 26-27 February 2001**

Please fill in one registration form in block letters for each person attending.

The meeting of the Parties will start on Monday, 26 February at 10 a.m., and end on Tuesday, 27 February at 1 p.m. All delegates are invited to take part in a pre-meeting programme, starting on Sunday, 25 February at 10 a.m. (see annex I).

Please return the registration form to the two addresses below before 15 January 2001:

COMPANY for INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS LTD.

18 Christo Belchev Street, 1000 Sofia, BULGARIA

Tel. (+359 2) 9806 994 or 9808 961

Fax (+359 2) 9819 919 or 9806 074

E-mail: cim@einet.bg

ECE SECRETARIAT

Office 407, Place des Nations

1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel. (+4122) 917 24 48

Fax (+4122) 917 06 13

E-mail: wiecher.schrage@unece.org



Second Meeting of the Parties

26-27 February 2001, Sofia, Bulgaria

PERSONAL DATA

SURNAME: Ms. Mr.

FIRST NAME: NATIONALITY:

OCCUPATION / PROFESSION:
(institution, organization or firm for which you are currently working)

COUNTRY OR ORGANIZATION YOU WILL REPRESENT AT THE MEETING:

.....

FULL PROFESSIONAL ADDRESS:

Postal Code: City:

Tel: Fax: E-mail:

ACCOMPANYING PERSON (S):

.....

(name(s) of any person(s) accompanying you (provide full name(s)))

FLIGHT DETAILS

ARRIVAL

Date: Hour:

From: Flight No:

Do you require transport to the hotel?

☐ yes persons

☐ no

DEPARTURE

Date: Hour:

From: Flight No:

Do you require transport to the airport?

☐ yes persons

☐ no

ACCOMMODATION

Please make reservations for me at this / these hotels (s) as follows:

Pre-meeting programme:

Dates arrival: Hotel single room night ☐ double room night ☐

Second Meeting of the Parties:

Dates arrival: Hotel single room night ☐ double room night ☐

HOTELS

1. Kempinski Hotel Zografski *****
2. Rodina Hotel *****
3. Hemus Hotel ***

SINGLE ROOM

- ☐ US\$ 160
☐ US\$ 72
☐ US\$ 40

DOUBLE ROOM

- ☐ US\$ 200
☐ US\$ 104
☐ US\$ 56

(rates are per night and per room and include breakfast and transfers from/to Sofia Airport)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

.....

(please, indicate any dietary needs, non-smoking rooms, or other special requirements)

RESERVATION FORM

PRE-MEETING PROGRAMME I would like to take part in the Seminar on: February, 25th 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

☐ yes ☐ no

SOCIAL PROGRAMME (Free of charge)

Sightseeing Tour of Sofia

February, 25th

☐ yes persons

Welcome Cocktail

February, 25th

☐ yespersons

Official Dinner

February, 26th

☐ yespersons

TOURIST PROGRAMME

Folk Style Dinner US\$ 25 per person

I would like to take part in the tourist programme

February, 27th

☐ yespersons

PAYMENT

The payments (net of bank charges) should be made in US dollars cash or by Bank Transfer payable to Company for International Meetings Ltd. (CIM). Please, indicate clearly your name and "EIA Convention Meeting" on the bank documents.

DETAILS OF PAYMENT:

BULGARIAN POST BANK

1 BULGARIA SQUARE, SOFIA 1000, BULGARIA

BANK CODE: 920 79400, BANK ACCOUNT: 110 122 6019

TOTAL PREPAID US DOLLARS
(HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST PROGRAMME)

Please return this to:

COMPANY for INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS LTD.

18 Christo Belchev Street, 1000 Sofia, BULGARIA

Tel. (+359 2) 9806 994 or 9808 961;

Fax (+359 2) 9819 919 or 9806 074;

E-mail: cim@einet.bg

ECE SECRETARIAT

Office 407, Place des Nations,

1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel. (+4122) 917 24 48

Fax (+4122) 917 06 13

E-mail: wiecher.schrage@unece.org

SIGNATURE: DATE: