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**Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context**

**Ad hoc Working Group on the Protocol
on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION

1. The eighth session of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context took place in Geneva (Switzerland) on 30 January 2003.
2. It was attended by the delegations of: Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America and Yugoslavia.
3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Commission of the European Communities.
4. The following international and non-governmental organizations were also represented: Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO/EURO), ECOGLOBE, ECOTERRA, Environment Experts Association, European ECO Forum, International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), International Public Network for Environmental Impact Assessment (IPNEIA) and Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).
5. The meeting was opened by Mr. Terje Lind (Norway), Chairperson of the Working Group.

I - ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Working Group adopted the agenda as set out in document MP.EIA/AC.1/2003/1/Rev.1.

II - CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION

7. The Working Group accepted the report of the seventh session (MP.EIA/AC.1/2002/12).

III - FINALIZATION OF THE DRAFT PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

8. The Chairperson introduced the final draft protocol on strategic environmental assessment (MP.EIA/AC.1/2003/3/Rev.1), prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat, and drew the attention of the Meeting to the outstanding issues.
9. The Working Group was able to resolve the outstanding issues (art. 4 on the field of application concerning plans and programmes and art. 11 on the decision) and to finalize the draft protocol on strategic environmental assessment in accordance with decision II/9, adopted at the second meeting of the Parties to the EIA Convention.
10. The Working Group decided to submit the protocol for adoption and signature at the extraordinary meeting of the Parties in Kiev in May 2003.

IV - FINALIZATION OF THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

11. The secretariat introduced the draft ministerial resolution on strategic environmental assessment.
12. The Working Group was able to finalize the draft ministerial resolution on the protocol on strategic environmental assessment.
13. The Working Group decided to submit the ministerial resolution for formal adoption at the extraordinary meeting of the Parties.

V - CLOSING OF THE EIGHTH SESSION

14. The Chairperson thanked the delegations for a productive final session, concluding the work of the Ad hoc Working Group.