



**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**

**Preparatory meeting for the first meeting
of the Signatories to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment
(First meeting, Geneva, 27-28 November 2003)**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 27 November 2003 *

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report of the extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (May 2003, Kiev) and status of signature of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
4. Implementation Committee and compliance (MP.EIA/WG.1/2003/8).

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form, also available from the web site of the UNECE / ENHS Division (<http://www.unece.org/env/eia/welcome.html>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax (+41-22-917-0634 / 0107) or by e-mail (wiecher.schrage@unece.org). Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) to pick up their identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the UNECE secretariat by telephone (extension 71204).

5. Possible financing mechanisms
6. Future work, work plan and budget (MP.EIA/AC.3/2003/3).
7. Organizational aspects of the first meeting of the Signatories.
8. Other business.
9. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The first preparatory meeting for the first meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA Protocol) is convened in accordance with the resolution made at the extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention, on 21 May 2003 in Kiev. The agenda and its explanatory notes have been prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, in accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure adopted at the first meeting of the Parties.

Item 1. Election of officers

The Meeting will elect a chair and vice-chair for the preparatory meeting for the first meeting of the Signatories to the SEA Protocol.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

The Chair will open the meeting, in accordance with the Convention's rules of procedure.

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

Item 3. Report of the extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (May 2003, Kiev) and status of signature of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

An extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Convention was held during the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (May 2003, Kiev). The Chairman of the ad hoc Working Group on the SEA Protocol, Mr. Terje Lind (Norway), will inform the Meeting of the adoption and signature of the Protocol at the extraordinary meeting.

The secretariat will inform the Meeting of the status of signature of the Protocol. Representatives of those States that have not yet signed the Protocol will be invited to report on their plans for signature. The Meeting is expected to take note of this information.

Item 4. Implementation Committee and compliance

The Meeting will consider the report of the third meeting of the Convention's Implementation Committee (MP.EIA/WG.1/2003/8), to be presented by its President, Mr. Roger Gebbels. The Meeting is also expected to consider elements for a proposed draft decision for the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention as previously discussed during the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including a request that the mandate of the Implementation Committee should also cover the Protocol. The Meeting is expected to provide further guidance on the draft decision.

Item 5. Possible financing mechanisms

Signatories are expected to inform the Meeting about their efforts to provide extrabudgetary resources, in particular for the extrabudgetary post within the secretariat and for funding the participation of representatives of countries in transition until the first meeting of the Signatories. The Chairman of the Meeting of the Parties, Mr. Nenad Mikulic, will report on progress in obtaining funding for the first meeting of the Signatories in Croatia.

The Chairman of the Working Group on EIA, Mr. Stefan Ruchti, will report on the outcome of discussions during its sixth meeting regarding the financing of activities under the Convention. Having considered this information, the Meeting is expected to propose a funding system for activities under the Protocol, which includes financial means for the extrabudgetary post in the secretariat, during the period between the first meeting of the Signatories and the entry into force of the Protocol.

It will be brought to the attention of the Meeting that the criteria used under the Convention for granting financial support to representatives of countries in transition and NGOs will also apply under the Protocol.

Item 6. Future work, work plan and budget

Delegations will be invited to come forward with proposals for activities under the Protocol during the period between the first meeting of the Signatories and the entry into force of the Protocol. To support this discussion, the secretariat has a prepared draft elements for a work plan for the SEA Protocol (MP.EIA/AC.3/2003/3).

In addition, the Meeting will consider information provided by the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) and the secretariat regarding possible further cooperation regarding health considerations under the Protocol.

The Meeting is expected to discuss which activities to include in a draft work plan and to identify which activities should be 'core' ones. It is expected that the 'core' activities will be supported by extrabudgetary funding provided by the Signatories to the Protocol.

Item 7. Organizational aspects of the first meeting of the Signatories

Mr. Mikulic will inform the Meeting about the practical arrangements for the first meeting of the Signatories to be held in the week of 31 May to 4 June 2004 in Cavtat, Croatia, back to back with the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention in the same week also in Cavtat. The Meeting will be informed of the activities that will take place up to the first meeting. It is expected to decide on actions to be taken to prepare for the first meeting of the Signatories, including the preparation of draft documents for their consideration.

Item 8. Other business

Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 9. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

The Chair will close the meeting by summing up the main decisions taken.



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