UNITED NATIONS



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#### **ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Compliance Committee (Fourth meeting, Geneva, 13-14 May 2004)

#### ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 13 May 2004 <sup>1</sup>

#### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document, taking into account any points raised for consideration by representatives of non-governmental organizations present at the meeting as observers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to duly complete the attached registration form, also available from the web site of the Aarhus Convention at <a href="http://www.unece.org/env/pp/compliance.htm">http://www.unece.org/env/pp/compliance.htm</a>, and then to transmit it to the Aarhus Convention secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax +41 22 917 01 07 or by e-mail to the following address <a href="mailto:public.participation@unece.org">public.participation@unece.org</a>. 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 Aarhus Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 42 26.

#### 2. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Committee

The Chairman will report on the main points raised in connection with his report on the compliance mechanism to the Working Group of the Parties at its second meeting (3 to 5 May 2004).

The Committee will be invited to share any other information on relevant developments since its previous meeting not covered under other agenda items.

### 3. Other matters arising from the previous meeting

The secretariat will present progress in the preparation of a document on the main aspects of the compliance mechanism, including the Committee's modus operandi, procedures for submissions, referrals and communications, information gathering and on-the-spot appraisal, as requested by the Committee (MP.PP/C.1/2004/2, para. 12). The Committee will also be invited to discuss the possible inclusion of the paper on NGOs and the Compliance Committee in the publication.

#### 4. <u>Submissions by Parties concerning other Parties</u>

The Committee is expected to consider, in accordance with the relevant procedures, any submission made by a Party concerning another Party's compliance with its obligations under the Convention, as provided for under paragraph 15 of the annex to decision I/7.

#### 5. Submissions by Parties concerning their own compliance

The Committee is expected to consider, in accordance with the relevant procedures, any submission made by a Party concerning its own compliance with the obligations under the Convention, as provided for under paragraph 16 of the annex to decision I/7.

#### 6. Referrals by the secretariat

The Committee is expected to consider, in accordance with the relevant procedures, any referral made by the secretariat concerning possible non-compliance by a Party with its obligations under the Convention, as provided for under paragraph 17 of the annex to decision I/7.

#### 7. Communications from members of the public

The Committee is expected to consider, in accordance with the relevant procedures, any communications received from the public, as provided for under chapter VI of the annex to decision I/7.

#### 8. Other information received by the Committee relevant to possible cases of non-compliance

The secretariat will report on its progress in seeking further information from the Government of Turkmenistan on its new law on public associations (MP.PP/C.1/2004/2, para. 18). The Committee is expected to take note of the report and to decide upon further action as appropriate.

The Committee is also expected to consider any other information relevant to possible non-compliance brought to its attention.

#### 9. Modus operandi

The Committee will be invited to discuss, on the basis of proposals from the secretariat, the following issues and to consider addressing them in its modus operandi:

- (a) The types of decisions which could be taken electronically (i.e. through e-mail) and the procedures for taking such decisions. For example, to facilitate the efficient and timely processing of communications or submissions, the Committee might consider it justified to communicate by e-mail take a decision, pursuant to paragraph 20 of the decision I/7, as to the admissibility of a communication in between its meetings or a decision on which points should be raised with a Party which is the subject of a communication.
- (b) The extent to which, in order to facilitate the efficient and timely processing of communications or submissions by the Committee, the secretariat should be mandated to seek further information, for example, supporting documentation, from a communicant or submitting Party, if it considers such information to be necessary to complete the communication or submission.
- (c) Logistical considerations pertaining to the forwarding of communications from the public by the secretariat, including the time frame within which this should be done and the extent to which the secretariat should or may, at the same time as forwarding the communication, provide a summary analysis of key points in the communication, identify additional information which could be requested either from the communicant or the Party concerned, and provide English translations of the most essential documentation if this has not been submitted in English.
- 10. Programme of work and calendar of meetings for 2004-2005
- 11. Any other business
- 12. Adoption of the report



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Please return this form by 29 April 2004 to Serena Chaudhuri by fax

Please fill in by typing & pri		
Date		

Title of the Conference	
4th meeting of the Aarh	us Convention Compliance Committee (13-14 May 2004)
Delegation/Participant of Country, O	rganisation or Agency
Participant Family Name  Mr Mrs Date Of Birth (Day  Participation Category	First Name  y/Month/Year)
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