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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**

**Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment
(Eighth meeting, Geneva, 27-29 April 2005)**

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 27 April 2005 *

The eighth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be held back to back with the second meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Geneva, 25-26 April 2005). The meeting will begin with a three-hour workshop, organized by Italy and Switzerland, on the exchange of best practice in EIA of transboundary projects.

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Activities relating to the Convention listed in the work plan (decision III/9)
 - (a) Compliance with and implementation of the Convention

The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on this activity and on the Committee's other work. She will present the report of its sixth meeting (MP.EIA/WG.1/2005/3)

* 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).

and the informal report of its seventh meeting. She is also expected to present an early draft of a revised format for country reports (revised questionnaire). Finally, the Chair of the Committee will report on any submissions that it is considering.

The secretariat will report on the status of the Inquiry Procedure established under the Convention at the request of Romania.

- (b) Exchange of good practice

Delegations will be invited to propose further workshops on this subject.

- (c) Subregional cooperation to strengthen contacts between the Parties

A representative of Serbia and Montenegro is expected to report on a subregional meeting for South-East Europe, held on 16-17 December 2004 in Belgrade, and to describe the draft framework bilateral or multilateral agreement under the Convention being developed for the subregion.

Representatives of the other lead countries will be invited to report on the preparations for their subregional meetings.

- (d) Capacity-building in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)

A representative of Kyrgyzstan is expected to report on the drafting of guidance on the practical application of the Convention to meet the specific needs of EECCA and on a workshop held on 5-7 October 2004 in Issyk-Kul (Kyrgyzstan).

Representatives of the other lead countries will be invited to report on the preparations for their contributions to the activity. All Parties will be invited to offer financial support.

- (e) Examination of the substantive relationship between the Convention and the Protocol

Representatives of the European Commission and Belgium will be invited to report on the preparations for this activity.

3. Follow-up to other decisions taken at the third meeting of the Parties not addressed by the work plan

- (a) Strengthening cooperation with other UNECE conventions (decision III/3)
- (b) Guidelines on good practice and on bilateral and multilateral agreements (decision III/4, paras 5 and 6)
- (c) Strengthening subregional cooperation (decision III/5, para. 5)
- (d) Information exchange on EIA in a transboundary context (decision III/6, para. 2)
- (e) Guidance on public participation in EIA in a transboundary context (decision III/8, para. 3)

- (f) Budget and financial arrangements (decision III/10, para. 9)

In addition, a representative of the United Kingdom is expected to present an informal paper on how the fifth and subsequent meetings of the Parties might be organized so as to maximize effectiveness and minimize cost.

The secretariat will report on the receipt of pledges made at the third meeting of the Parties and on any outstanding pledges from the first year of the three-year period. All Parties will be invited to provide additional contributions towards activities under the work plan.

- (g) Financial assistance to representatives of countries in transition, non-governmental organizations and countries outside the UNECE region (decision III/11, paras. 5 and 6)

4. Follow-up to the Cavtat Declaration

The secretariat will report on contacts with multilateral lending institutions, further to paragraph 13 of the Declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex XIII).

Delegations will be invited to report on any activities that they are undertaking to promote the Declaration.

5. Meetings of the Parties

The Chair will report on the practical arrangements for the fourth meeting of the Parties to be held in Romania. The Working Group on EIA is expected to decide on action to prepare for this meeting.

The Chair will also inform the Working Group of the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" that will take place in Belgrade, in September or October 2007. The Working Group is expected to discuss how the Conference might be used to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention.

6. Status of ratification of the Convention and its amendments

7. Aarhus Convention's draft guidelines on public participation in international forums

A representative of the United Kingdom will provide further information on this issue.

8. Other business

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

The secretariat will present an informal paper on provisions for transboundary EIA in other multilateral environmental agreements and report on the preparation of a protocol on transboundary EIA to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea Framework.

The secretariat will also provide information on the comprehensive review of UNECE.

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



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