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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
(Ninth meeting, Geneva, 3-6 April 2006)

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINTH MEETING
to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 3 April 2006 *

The ninth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will begin with a three-hour workshop, organized by Bulgaria, on the exchange of good practices in post-project analysis within transboundary EIA. The meeting will be followed, on Thursday 6 April 2006, by a study tour organized by Switzerland for representatives from countries of Central Asia. This study tour is also open to other delegations in particular from countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

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

Further to a decision taken by the eighth meeting of the Working Group (MP.EIA/WG.1/2005/2,

* All delegates are requested to complete the attached registration form, also available from the web site of the UNECE (<http://www.unece.org/env/eia>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax (+41-22-917-0613 / 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).

para. 9-12), the Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on this activity and on the Committee's other work. She will present the report of the Committee's eighth meeting (MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/3) and the informal report of its ninth meeting. She is also expected to report on the intended content of operating rules for the conduct of Committee meetings. Finally, the Chair of the Committee will report on any submissions that the Committee is considering.

The secretariat will identify which Parties have responded to the questionnaire on implementation sent to the Parties and non-Parties in October 2005.

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

(b) Exchange of good practices

A representative of Bulgaria will report on the outcome of the workshop on the exchange of good practices in post-project analysis within transboundary EIA. Delegations will be invited to propose further workshops for the exchange of good practices.

(c) Subregional cooperation to strengthen contacts between the Parties

A representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is expected to report on a subregional meeting for South-East Europe, held on 30 June and 1 July 2005 in Ohrid (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). A representative of Bulgaria is then expected to report on a follow-up subregional meeting for South-East Europe, held on 3-4 November 2005 in Koprivshtitza (Bulgaria). The two representatives will be invited to describe the draft multilateral agreement under the Convention being developed for the subregion and to propose the venue for its signing.

A representative of Sweden is expected to report on a meeting for the Baltic Sea subregion, held in Stockholm on 20-21 October 2005.

A representative of Italy will be invited to report on the preparations for a meeting for the Mediterranean Sea subregion.

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

A representative of Kyrgyzstan is expected to report on the drafting of guidance on the practical application of the Convention in Central Asia and on a workshop, held on 5-7 October 2004 in Issyk-Kul (Kyrgyzstan). Representatives of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are expected to describe a follow-up transboundary EIA pilot project.

Representatives of the other lead countries, including Armenia, Tajikistan and Ukraine, will be invited to report on the preparations for their contributions to the activity. All delegations will be invited to provide financial support for capacity-building activities, in particular those included in the workplan.

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

A representative of the European Commission is expected to present the outcome of a study on the relationship between two European Commission Directives, one on EIA and the other on strategic environmental assessment (SEA). The Working Group is expected to discuss the need for any follow-up to this study.

(f) Institutional and procedural activities under the Protocol on SEA

Further to the decision taken at the eighth meeting of the Working Group (MP.EIA/WG.1/2005/2, para. 26-27), the delegations of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom will be invited to present a revised informal paper on institutional and procedural activities under the Protocol

3. Meetings of the Parties

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

The Chair of the Bureau will report on the practical arrangements for the fourth meeting of the Parties to be held in Romania. He is expected to present a detailed budget and to invite contributions. The Working Group on EIA is expected to decide on steps to be taken to prepare for this meeting.

4. Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention

The Chair of the Bureau will present a concrete proposal by the Bureau on how to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention during the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", which will take place in Belgrade in September or October 2007. The Working Group on EIA is also expected to decide on steps to be taken to prepare for this meeting.

5. Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol on SEA

The Chair of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol is expected to advise the Working Group on the likely date of the third meeting of the Signatories, as proposed by the Bureau, having taken into account the number of ratifications of the Protocol.

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

The Bureau will introduce a revised informal paper and a draft decision on the budget and financial arrangements, both prepared by a small working group (Bulgaria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) nominated by the Bureau (MP.EIA/WG.1/2005/2, para. 38). The Working Group is expected to decide on further steps to be taken.

The secretariat will present the first two biannual financial reports and report on the receipt of pledges made at the third meeting of the Parties and on any outstanding pledges from the first two years of the three-year period. All Parties will be invited to provide additional contributions towards activities under the workplan.

7. Aarhus Convention's guidelines on public participation in international forums (ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5)

A representative of the Aarhus Convention's Secretariat will report on the status of the guidelines on public participation in international forums and on other activities in this field.

8. Review of provisions for transboundary EIA in other multilateral environmental agreements

Further to the decision taken at the eighth meeting of the Working Group (MP.EIA/WG.1/2005/2, para. 54), the meeting is expected to discuss possible future activities in this field on the basis of an informal review of EIA in a transboundary context in other multilateral agreement, prepared by the secretariat.

A representative of a Contracting Party to the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area will be invited to report on the preparation of guidance on transboundary EIA being prepared under that Convention.

The secretariat will report on the preparation of a protocol on transboundary EIA to the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea.

9. Other business

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

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

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



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