



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Executive Secretary

Under-Secretary-General

Ref: ECE / ENV / 2015 / 291

19 August 2015

Excellencies,

I have the honour of writing to you in reference to the Consultation Process under the Compliance Committee of the UNECE/World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) Protocol on Water and Health. I would like to thank Albania for having accepted the invitation of the Committee to engage in a consultation. In that regard, the Committee has requested that I convey to you information and requests related to the consultation as set out below.

The consultation with Albania will take place at the Committee's twelfth meeting in Geneva on 20 October 2015 (see enclosed provisional agenda for the meeting). At the same meeting, in addition to Albania, the Committee will hold a consultation with Azerbaijan, while Bosnia and Herzegovina will participate in the process as an observer. The programme for the consultation will be prepared in due time, also based on input from Albania. The Consultation will be held in English.

Established at the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Oslo, 25–27 November 2013), the objective of the Consultation Process is to assist Parties in implementing the provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health. It consists of advice and assistance, which may vary depending on the specific conditions and needs of the Party involved. It can address scientific, technical, legal and administrative issues. The Consultation Process is not a compliance review procedure: it is not of an inquisitive nature and its objective is not to establish whether a Party is non-compliant. The process is governed by the same principles guiding the work of the Compliance Committee, i.e., it is simple, facilitative, non-adversarial and cooperative. Consultations are, in principle, open to observers. However, if Albania wishes to provide information in confidence such information is kept confidential. The terms of reference for the Consultation Process are enclosed for your information.

In preparation for the Consultation Process, the Committee has carefully analysed the summary report submitted by Albania in October 2014 within the second reporting cycle. Based on this analysis, the Committee has identified the following areas for discussion on 20 October related to the Protocol's implementation:

His Excellency
Mr. Edmond Panariti
Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development
and Water Resources
of Albania
Tirana

His Excellency
Mr. Ilir Beqaj
Minister of Health
of Albania
Tirana



- The institutional framework for the implementation of the Protocol, in particular intersectoral and interministerial coordination between the responsible authorities.
- Progress in the implementation of the targets set by the Albanian National Strategy of Water Supply and Sewerage for 2011–2017.
- The preparation process for summary reports in accordance with the Protocol, including intersectoral coordination and the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the collection and evaluation of data and the preparation of reports.

The Committee would also like to invite you to identify by **15 September 2015** any other challenges related to the implementation of the Protocol in Albania that you would like to put on the consultation agenda and to inform the secretariat accordingly (nataliya.nikiforova@unece.org). If you wish to provide any background material that the Committee might find useful for preparing a constructive discussion and delivering informed advice, please also send it to the secretariat by 15 September 2015. Based on this information and the above considerations, the Committee will develop the programme of the consultation.

Finally, the Committee invites you to nominate, as soon as possible but **by no later than 4 September 2015**, two representatives per Ministry who will participate in the consultation. The Committee strongly encourages that the two focal points for the Protocol should be among the country representatives and that the other two should be of a higher level, at least at the level of head of department. The UNECE secretariat will be in a position to offer financial support to the four country representatives. Nominations should be submitted together with the financial support request form and online registration (available on the meeting website at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38171#/>) to the UNECE secretariat (nataliya.nikiforova@unece.org).

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Christian Friis Bach

Enclosures (two)