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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  
(Sixth meeting, Geneva, 27-29 October 2003)**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH MEETING**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 27 October 2003

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report of the extraordinary meeting of the Parties on the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.
3. Preparation of draft decisions for possible adoption at the third meeting of the Parties:
  - (a) Review of the implementation of the Convention;
  - (b) Implementation Committee (MP.EIA/WG.1/2003/8);
  - (c) Strengthening cooperation with other ECE conventions;
  - (d) Guidelines on good practice and on bilateral or multilateral agreements;
  - (e) Subregional cooperation (MP.EIA/WG.1/2003/9);
  - (f) Database on environmental impact assessment (ENIMPAS);
  - (g) Possible future amendments to the Convention (MP.EIA/WG.1/2003/10);
  - (h) Public participation in EIA in a transboundary context;
  - (i) Work plan; and
  - (j) Cavtat Declaration.
4. Financing of the activities of the Convention:
  - (a) Current funding;
  - (b) Future funding; and
  - (c) Financing of representatives from countries in transition and NGOs.

5. Organizational aspects of the third meeting of the Parties.
6. Activities for promoting the implementation and ratification of the Convention:
  - (a) Status of ratification; and
  - (b) Amendment of the Convention as adopted at the second meeting of the Parties.
7. Other business.
8. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The sixth meeting of the Working Group is convened in accordance with a decision taken at the second meeting of the Parties. The agenda and its explanatory notes have been prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Meeting, in accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure.

### Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with the rules of procedure adopted at the first meeting of the Parties, the Chairperson, Mr. Stefan Ruchti, will open the meeting.

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

### Item 2. Report of the extraordinary meeting of the Parties on the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

An extraordinary meeting of the Parties was held during the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (May 2003, Kiev). The Chairman of the ad hoc Working Group on the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Mr. Terje Lind (Norway), will inform the Working Group of the adoption and signature of the Protocol at the extraordinary meeting of the Parties. A meeting of an open-ended Task Force to prepare for the first meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment will be held on 27 - 28 November 2003. The Working Group is expected to take note of this information. Representatives of those states that have not yet signed the Protocol will be invited to report on their plans for signature.

### Item 3. Preparation of draft decisions for possible adoption at the third meeting of the Parties

#### (a) Review of the implementation of the Convention

The secretariat will present to the Working Group a preliminary analysis of the replies provided by delegations to the implementation questionnaire. This analysis is the first stage in the preparation of the draft review of the implementation of the Convention, pursuant to item 1 of the work-plan adopted at the second meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/4, annex XI). The Working Group is expected to consider this information and request a small group to prepare a draft review of the implementation of the Convention, with the assistance of the secretariat, for consideration at the third meeting of the Parties. The Working Group is also expected to consider the outline of a draft decision to be proposed for adoption at the third meeting of the Parties, to be held from 31 May to 2 June 2004 in Cavtat, Croatia.

(b) Implementation Committee

The Working Group will consider the report of the third meeting of the Implementation Committee (MP.EIA/WG.1/2003/8), to be presented by its Chairperson Mr. Roger Gebbels. The Working Group is also expected to consider elements for a proposed draft decision, including: (i) proposals for possible public involvement in the work of the Committee; (ii) a request that the mandate of the Implementation Committee should also cover the amendment to the Convention and the SEA Protocol; and (iii) a request that the Implementation Committee should review the responses to the implementation questionnaire. The Working Group is expected to provide further guidance on the draft decision which will be discussed further at the fourth meeting of the Implementation Committee, on 30-31 October 2003.

(c) Strengthening cooperation with other ECE conventions

The delegation of Romania, lead country for this activity, will present the outcome of a workshop on strengthening cooperation with other ECE conventions, scheduled to take place in Romania on 2 - 5 October 2003, together with a proposed draft decision for the third meeting of the Parties. This activity will support the cooperation between the EIA Convention and the other ECE conventions with the aim of further strengthening their implementation and in particular further improving the application of environmental impact assessment (EIA) in a transboundary context. This activity will include an analysis of the relationship with the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols, and identify opportunities for improving the application of the EIA Convention with respect to public participation, content requirements for EIA documentation, risk assessment, post-project analysis and monitoring. The Working Group may wish to provide guidance to the lead country for future work.

(d) Guidelines on good practice and on bilateral or multilateral agreements

This activity aims at reviewing and updating the guidelines on the practical application of the Convention and on the preparation of bilateral and multilateral agreements. The delegations of Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden, lead countries for this activity, will present the draft guidance, available in electronic and paper versions, and the proposed draft decision on this issue. The Working Group is expected to discuss a draft decision on the guidelines for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties, and may wish to discuss and put forward proposals for implementing such guidelines.

(e) Subregional cooperation

Subregional cooperation aims at strengthening the application of environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context through the provisions of the Convention, in particular in the countries in transition. The delegations of Croatia and Poland, lead countries for this activity, will provide information on how this activity will be further implemented. The delegation of Poland will report on a workshop on subregional cooperation held in Szentendre, Hungary, on 23-25 June 2003. The lead countries will present a draft report (MP.EIA/WG.1/2003/9) and a proposed draft decision, based on the outcome of the workshops held in Bulgaria and Hungary, and the upcoming workshop in Serbia and Montenegro. The Working Group is expected to

finalize the report and the draft decision on subregional cooperation for possible adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.

(f) Database on environmental impact assessment

The Working Group will consider a draft report on the use of the database prepared by the delegation of Poland. Mr. Nenad Mikulic (Croatia), Chairperson of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties, will report on its review of the database and make suggestions on how to manage data more effectively. The Working Group will discuss a draft decision on the future of the database and other possibilities for collecting cases under the Convention.

(g) Possible future amendments to the Convention

Further to the decision taken at the fourth meeting of the Working Group (MP.EIA/WG.1/2001/2) and the discussions at the previous meeting of the Working Group (MP.EIA/WG.1/2003/2), a small working group has examined possible amendments to the Convention. The delegation of Germany, on behalf of this small working group, will report on the group's deliberations and present proposals for consideration by the Working Group (MP.EIA/WG.1/2003/10). The Working Group is expected to discuss the proposals and decide on further steps to be taken to prepare amendments to the Convention.

(h) Public participation in EIA in a transboundary context

The delegation of the Russian Federation, lead country for this activity, will report on the outcome of the workshop scheduled to take place in Moscow on 25-27 September 2003 and will present the draft of the guidance on public participation in EIA in a transboundary context, based on the information on case studies to be prepared at that workshop. The Working Group is expected to discuss and finalize the report and to prepare a draft decision on public participation in EIA in a transboundary context for possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

(i) Work plan

The Bureau will present possible activities for inclusion in the work plan for the period between the third and fourth meetings of the Parties, as proposed by delegations. The Working Group is expected to decide on which activities to include in the draft work plan, to consider additional proposals and to identify which activities will be 'core' ones.

(j) Cavtat Declaration

The Bureau will propose elements for a draft declaration to be adopted at the forthcoming meeting of the Parties, which the Working Group is expected to discuss and develop further.

#### Item 4. Financial aspects

(a) The Working Group will review decision II/13 on the budget (ECE/MP.EIA/4,

annex XIII). Parties are expected to inform the Working Group of their efforts to provide extrabudgetary resources pursuant to paragraph 4, in particular concerning the work of the secretariat and funding for countries in transition until the third meeting of the Parties. Mr. Mikulic will report on progress in obtaining funding for the third meeting of the Parties in Croatia.

(b) As requested at the fifth meeting of the Working Group, the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties will present more concrete proposals for the future financing of activities under the EIA Convention. The Working Group is expected to decide on a system of funding for these activities during the period between the third and fourth meetings of the Parties.

(c) The Bureau will present options for funding representatives of countries in transition and NGOs to attend meetings. The Working Group is expected to finalize the proposal so that a decision for possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties can be prepared.

#### Item 5. Organizational aspects of the third meeting of the Parties

Mr. Mikulic will inform the Working Group about the practical arrangements for the third meeting of the Parties to be held in the week of 31 May to 4 June 2004 in Cavtat, Croatia. It can be expected that the first open-ended meeting of the Signatories will be held back to back in the same week also in Cavtat. The Working Group will be informed of the activities that will take place up to the third meeting. It is expected to decide on actions to be taken to prepare for the third meeting of the Parties.

#### Item 6. Activities for promoting the implementation and ratification of the Convention

(a) Status of ratification

The secretariat will inform the Working Group of the status of ratification of the Convention. Representatives of non-Parties will report on the steps that they are taking to become a Party to the Convention. The Working Group is expected to take note of this information.

(b) Amendment of the Convention as adopted at the second meeting of the Parties

At their second meeting, the Parties decided to amend the Convention, in particular to allow States outside the UNECE region to become Parties to the Convention (decision II/14, ECE/MP.EIA/4, annex XIV). Delegations are expected to report on the steps taken to promote the ratification, approval or acceptance of this amendment. Mr. Mikulic will inform the Working Group of the discussions within the Bureau on the implementation of this decision, in particular on ways and means of contacting States outside the UNECE region. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information provided.

Item 7. Other business

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

Item 8. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

The Chairperson will close the meeting by presenting the main decisions taken by the Working Group.