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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
(Seventh meeting, Geneva, 28-30 January 2004)**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 28 January 2004 *

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. 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;
 - (c) Strengthening cooperation with other ECE conventions;
 - (d) Guidelines on good practice and on bilateral or multilateral agreements;
 - (e) Subregional cooperation;
 - (f) Database on environmental impact assessment;
 - (g) Possible future amendments to the Convention;
 - (h) Public participation in EIA in a transboundary context;
 - (i) Work plan; and
 - (j) Cavtat Declaration.

* 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).

3. Financial aspects:
 - (a) Current funding;
 - (b) Future funding; and
 - (c) Financing of representatives from countries in transition and NGOs.
4. Organizational aspects of the third meeting of the Parties.
5. 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.
6. Other business.
7. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The seventh meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is convened in accordance with a decision taken at its sixth meeting in order to continue the discussion on all items. It will be held back to back with the second preparatory meeting for the first meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Geneva, 26-27 January 2004). The agenda and its explanatory notes have been prepared by the secretariat as requested by the Bureau. The Working Group is expected to finalize all documents for formal adoption at the third meeting of the Parties (Cavtat, Croatia, May/June 2004). Because of the short time available between the sixth and the seventh meeting of the Working Group, only informal documents will be prepared in English and informal translation into Russian. The documents will be made available to the participants before the seventh meeting and posted on the web site of the Convention (<http://www.unece.org/env/eia>).

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. 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 draft decision on the review of the implementation of the Convention together with relevant background documentation. The Working Group is expected to finalize this documentation for formal adoption at the third meeting of the Parties.

(b) Implementation Committee

The Working Group will consider the informal report of the fourth meeting of the Implementation Committee, to be presented by its Chairperson Mr. Roger Gebbels. The Working Group is also expected to finalize a proposed draft decision on this issue.

(c) Strengthening cooperation with other ECE conventions

The delegation of Romania, lead country for this activity, will present the draft decision on this issue including the outcome of the workshop on strengthening cooperation with other ECE conventions, which was held in Romania on 2 - 5 October 2003. The Working Group is expected to finalize the draft decision.

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

The Working Group is expected to finalize a draft decision on the guidelines for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties, and may wish to put forward and discuss proposals for implementing such guidelines.

(e) Subregional cooperation

The Working Group is expected to finalize the draft decision on subregional cooperation, prepared by the delegations of Croatia and Poland, and taking into account the workshop held in Serbia and Montenegro (Belgrade, 6 – 7 November 2003) for possible adoption at the next meeting of the Parties.

(f) Database on environmental impact assessment

The Working Group will finalize a draft decision on the future of the database and other possibilities for collecting cases under the Convention.

(g) Possible amendments to the Convention

Further to the decision taken at the sixth meeting of the Working Group, a small working group has further elaborated possible amendments to the Convention. On behalf of this small working group, the delegation of Germany will present proposals for consideration by the Working Group. The Working Group is expected to discuss the proposals and finalize these amendments to the Convention for possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

(h) Public participation in EIA in a transboundary context

The delegation of the Russian Federation, lead country for this activity, will present the draft of the guidance on public participation in EIA in a transboundary context, based on the discussions held at the sixth meeting of the Working Group on EIA. The Working Group is expected to finalize the 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 the draft 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 and to identify which activities will be 'core' ones.

(j) Cavtat Declaration

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

Item 3. Financial aspects

(a) Mr. Mikulic will report on progress in obtaining funding for the third meeting of the Parties in Croatia.

(b) As requested at the sixth meeting of the Working Group, the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties will present a draft decision on the future financing of activities under the Convention. The Working Group is expected to finalize the draft decision on funding for these

activities during the period between the third and fourth meetings of the Parties.

(c) The Bureau will present a draft decision on funding representatives of countries in transition and NGOs to attend meetings. The Working Group is expected to finalize the draft decision for possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 4. 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 5. 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.



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