



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Implementation Committee

Fortieth session

Geneva, 5–7 December 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

GE.17-20873(E)



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Annotated provisional agenda for the fortieth session

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 5 December 2017***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up to decision VI/2.
3. Submissions.
4. Committee initiative.
5. Information gathering:
 - (a) Convention matters;
 - (b) Protocol matters.
6. Review of implementation.
7. Other business.
8. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The present provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in agreement with the Implementation Committee Chair, in accordance with rule 9 of the Implementation Committee's operating rules.¹ The Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out herein.

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Members of the Committee and observers are therefore requested to register online at least two weeks before the start of the meeting through the following link:

https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=PLSfu_ (the use of the Internet Explorer browser is recommended). In case of difficulty, please refer to the online user manual (<https://www2.unece.org/wiki/display/OMR/Online+Meeting+Registration+Guidelines>) or contact the secretariat by e-mail (anelia.rambosson@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see map and other practical information available from the Economic Commission for Europe website at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 4128.

¹ The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention adopted the Committee's operating rules through decision IV/2 (see ECE/MP.EIA/10), and later amended them through decisions V/4 (see ECE/MP.EIA/15) and VI/2 (see ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.1, annex II). A consolidated version is available on the Committee web page (see http://www.unece.org/env/eia/implementation/implementation_committee.html).

2. Follow-up to decision VI/2

2. Discussion under agenda item 2 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 of the operating rules.

3. Further to its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 5–7 September 2017), the Committee is expected to continue to follow up on decision VI/2² of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention regarding Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Ukraine with a view to preparing a revised text of draft decision VII/2 for the consideration of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its “intermediary” session.³

4. The Committee will invite the delegation of Azerbaijan to present information and opinions regarding its national legislation for the implementation of the Convention and will ask questions, including the reasons why Azerbaijan is experiencing difficulties in adopting its draft law on environmental impact assessment, notwithstanding the technical assistance provided to the country since 2012. The Committee will then consider the matter and, in absence of the Committee member from Azerbaijan, it will proceed to draft its findings and recommendations.

3. Submissions

5. Discussions under agenda item 3 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 of the operating rules.

6. The Committee will examine any submissions by Parties received since the Committee’s previous session.

4. Committee initiative

7. Discussion under agenda item 4 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 of the operating rules.

8. The Committee will continue the consideration of its initiative on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in accordance with the Committee’s structure and functions and the procedures for the review of compliance,⁴ and the Committee’s operating rules. The Committee is expected to review and revise the specific parts of draft decision VII/2 regarding the United Kingdom (paras. 69–72), taking into account the information to be provided by the Government of the United Kingdom in advance of the session.

5. Information gathering

9. Discussion under agenda item 5 will not be open to observers, except if invited by the Committee.

(a) Convention matters

10. The Committee will continue consideration of information it has gathered regarding the extension of the lifetime of reactors at the Borssele nuclear power plant in the Netherlands, the Doel and Tihange nuclear power plants in Belgium, the Dukovany nuclear power plant in Czechia, the Santa Maria de Garoña nuclear power plant in Spain and the Rivne, South Ukrainian, Zaporizhia and Khelmniyskiy nuclear power plants in Ukraine.

² See ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.1 and Corr.1.

³ See ECE/MP.EIA/23-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7 (forthcoming), para. 27.

⁴ See MP.EIA/2004/3, decision III/2, appendix, para. 6.

11. The Committee may also continue consideration of the information-gathering cases regarding compliance with the provisions of the Convention by Bosnia and Herzegovina in respect of the planned activities at the Ugljevik and Stanari thermal power plants; by Spain concerning the planned construction of individual temporary storage for radioactive waste at the Almaraz nuclear power plant; and by Belarus regarding the recently adopted law on State ecological expertise, strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment.

12. Time permitting, the Committee is also expected to consider information submitted by a non-governmental organization from Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding two proposed activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and by a German civil initiative regarding a proposed activity in Switzerland.

(b) Protocol matters

13. The Committee will continue its deliberations concerning compliance with the provisions of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment by Serbia with regard to the Serbian Energy Development Strategy and its Spatial Plan. Time permitting, the Committee is also expected to consider information submitted by a non-governmental organization from the Republic of Moldova regarding a programme related to hydropower development in Ukraine.

6. Review of implementation

14. The Committee is expected to consider the general and specific compliance issues identified in the fifth review of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2017/9) and the second review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/9), based on proposals to be prepared by the curators in advance of the session.

15. In line with decisions VII/1⁵ and III/1,⁶ the Committee is expected to consider proposed adjustments to the questionnaires for reporting on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol during the period 2016–2018, to be submitted by the curators in advance of the session.

16. The Committee is also expected to continue its consideration of the specific issue of compliance by the European Union with the Protocol identified in the first review of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/3).

7. Other business

17. Members of the Committee wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

8. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session

18. The Committee is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting and to confirm the date and location of its next session before the Chair formally closes the session.

5 ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.2-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.2 (forthcoming), decision VII/1, para. 6.

6 ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.3-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.3 (forthcoming), decision III/1, para. 6.