



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Executive Secretary

*Under-Secretary-General*

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19 August 2015

Excellency,

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina for having accepted the Compliance Committee's invitation to join the consultation as an observer. In that regard, the Committee has requested that I convey to you information and requests related to the consultation as set out below.

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina wishes to provide information in confidence such information is kept confidential. The terms of reference for the Consultation Process are enclosed for your information.

The consultation with Albania and Azerbaijan will take place at the Committee's twelfth meeting in Geneva on 20 October 2015 (see enclosed the provisional agenda of the meeting). The consultation will be held in English.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is to take part in the consultation as an observer. However, the Committee expects that Bosnia and Herzegovina would wish to participate in the same manner as Albania and Azerbaijan in order to benefit as much as possible from the process.

The Committee has carefully analysed the summary report submitted by Bosnia and Herzegovina in April 2013 within the second reporting cycle. Based on this analysis, the Committee has identified the following areas for discussion related to the Protocol's implementation:

His Excellency  
Mr. Mirko Šarović  
Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations  
of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Sarajevo



- The institutional framework for the implementation of the Protocol, in particular the distribution of responsibilities and intersectoral and interministerial coordination between the responsible authorities of the federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska and the Brčko District.
- The target setting process under the Protocol: current status and challenges.
- 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.

Accordingly, the Committee wishes to take the opportunity to discuss the above-mentioned issues with your country representatives during the meeting on 20 October. 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina that you would like to put on the consultation agenda, and inform the secretariat accordingly ([nataliya.nikiforova@unece.org](mailto: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**, up to three country representatives from the relevant authorities to participate in the consultation. The Committee strongly encourages the inclusion of the Protocol's official national focal points among the nominated representatives. The UNECE secretariat will be in a position to provide the three country representatives with a daily subsistence allowance. 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](mailto:nataliya.nikiforova@unece.org)).

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

Christian Friis Bach

cc: Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Public Institution "Vode Srpske"  
Ministry of Health of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republika Srpska

Enclosures (two)