

# **CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT**

## **MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

### **Introduction**

1. The Implementation Committee, established by Decision II/4 of the second meeting of the Parties, met in London from 11 to 14 June 2001.
2. The meeting was attended by the following Committee Members: Mr Imre Balogh (Slovakia), Dr Nune Darbinyan (Armenia), Mr Masud Husain (Canada), Mr Sergiu Magdil (Moldova), Mr Alistair McGlone (UK and Chairman), Ms Seija Rantakallio (Finland) and Mrs Janny Ratelband (Netherlands). Mrs. Menka Spirovska (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) sent her apologies.
3. In addition, Mr Andrzej Kraszewski (Poland and lead country on the EIA database) and Mr Wiek Schrage (UNECE) also attended.

### **The revision of the questionnaire**

4. The Committee's first task was to prepare a revision of the questionnaire that will be used for reporting pursuant to item 2 in the work plan annexed to Decision II/11 of the meeting of the Parties.
5. The Secretariat had prepared a first draft of a revised questionnaire. The Committee was most grateful to the Secretariat for its thorough work, and used the Secretariat's first draft as a working document.
6. The Committee revised the questionnaire at its meeting. It was agreed that the revised questionnaire should be circulated electronically to Committee members, so that it could be further revised and presented to the fourth meeting of the Working Group for adoption.
7. The Committee anticipates that a new site will be created on the database on environmental impact assessment, so that Parties and non-Parties will be able to enter their answers to the questionnaire on a country by country basis.
8. The Committee considers that it would be appropriate for Poland (the lead country on the database) to make a presentation to the fourth meeting of the Working Group to explain what arrangements could be made for countries to complete the questionnaire.
9. The Committee considered that the answers to the questionnaire should provide
  - the raw material for the review to be prepared in accordance with item 1 of the work plan annexed to Decision II/11 of the Meeting of the Parties; and
  - more generally, information on how the obligations of the Convention have been complied with, both at the general level and by particular Parties. In this context the answers to the questionnaire will be of considerable help to the Committee in the performance of its functions pursuant to Decision II/4.

10. The Committee expects that all information given as answers to the questionnaire will be publicly available.

#### **Future work of the Committee**

11. The Committee aims to meet in Geneva in the week beginning 14 January 2001. The Committee considered that it would be appropriate to meet at least twice in 2002 in order of its considerable workload, which will include the following matters.

#### *Report to the meeting of the Parties*

12. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of the Structure and Functions of the Procedures for review of compliance, which is set out in the Annex to Decision II/4 on compliance, the Committee will report on its activities to the third Meeting of the Parties. It will be necessary for the Committee to consider how it should go about the preparation of that report.

#### *Review of the structure and functions of the Committee*

13. In paragraph 4 of Decision II/4, the Meeting of the Parties decided to review the structure and functions of the Committee at its third meeting, bearing in mind the possible involvement of the public. In that context, the Meeting requested the Committee to prepare the necessary proposals for the third Meeting. There was initial discussion at this meeting. There will be further discussions at the next meeting.

#### **Agenda for the next meeting**

14. The Committee agreed on the agenda for its next meeting. It was emphasized that it will be necessary for all Committee members to undertake inter-sessional work in order to prepare for the next meeting.