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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

**Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
First meeting
(Oslo, 18-20 May 1998)
(Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda)**

DRAFT DECISION TO BE TAKEN AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Submitted by the preparatory meeting

DECISION I/8

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DATABASE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Meeting,

Having considered the report of the June 1995 Workshop on the database on EIA in a transboundary context, the EnimpAs, and the report of the open-ended information meeting on the Database in Warsaw, 19-20 February 1998,

Taking note of and expressing its gratitude to Norway and Poland for developing, improving and strengthening the Database in order to make it operational both through the Internet and as a stand-alone version,

1. Establishes under the auspices of the Convention, for a trial period of two years between the first and second meeting of the Parties, the Database on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, to support the implementation of the Convention;

2. Welcomes and accepts the generous offer of the Government of Poland to locate the Database on their server and to provide the technical as well as the staff support necessary for running the Database, and, accordingly, decides that during the trial period the Database server should be located in Poland, and that the coordination of the Database should be ensured by the Government of Poland, with the support of the secretariat;

3. Recommends that during the trial period the database should be operational in the three official languages of ECE, and that the secretariat should arrange for translation;

4. Calls on Parties to update the information included in the Database on a regular basis;

5. Invites non-Parties to update the information in the Database in order to broaden its applicability;

6. Decides that, throughout the trial period, the operation of the Database will be monitored and evaluated, and with that in mind, establishes an Evaluation Group to develop, implement and oversee an evaluation strategy so that a recommendation on the question of the need for a database and its continuation beyond the trial period can be presented at the second meeting of the Parties; and

7. Recommends that a user panel should be established to ensure that continuous feedback from the user's point of view is given to the Government of Poland as well as to the Evaluation Group.