



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

MP.EIA/WG.1/2000/3
20 January 2000

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

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
(Second meeting, Geneva, 29-31 May 2000)

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU
prepared by the secretariat in consultation with
the Chairperson

1. The second meeting of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context took place in Geneva on 15 November 1999. Ms. V. Grigorova (Bulgaria), Chairperson, Mr. N. Mikulic (Croatia), Mr. J. J. de Boer (Netherlands), Mr. T. Lind (Norway), Mr. A. Kraszewski (Poland), Mr. S. Ruchti (Switzerland), Mr. A. McGlone (United Kingdom) and Mr. W. Schrage (ECE secretariat) attended the meeting.

I. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2. Ms. Grigorova opened the meeting and the Bureau adopted its agenda.

II. EVALUATION OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

3. The Bureau discussed the proceedings of the first meeting of the Working Group and noted with concern that a number of activities in the work plan had not yet led to clear results. Mr. McGlone, President of the Working Group recommended the Bureau that more progress should be made and that more documents should be finalized by the established deadlines.

4. The secretariat reported on the follow-up to the Working Group's request to the secretariat to prepare a paper on strategic environmental assessment (SEA). This paper would be prepared with the help of a consultant, Mr. Fauchold (Norway), and be transmitted to the Working Group at its second meeting as well as to the Bureau of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention. The Bureau requested the secretariat to circulate to its members a first draft of this paper by the second half of January 2000.

III. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PARTIES

5. Considering the work programme's lack of progress, the Bureau expressed its concern that the second meeting of the Parties might not have enough substantial contributions. It concluded that the meeting should be postponed so that it could be prepared more thoroughly. The Bureau decided that the meeting should take place from 24 to 27 February 2001 and requested the delegation of Bulgaria to make the necessary arrangements. The Bureau also considered that the second meeting of the Parties in 2001 would provide a good opportunity for celebrating the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Convention. In this respect, it discussed the possibilities for organizing a special event, such as a scientific forum with invited speakers. The Bureau also decided that the Working Group should meet twice in the year 2000 (see annexed list of meetings) to prepare for the second meeting of the Parties as well as possible.

6. The Bureau discussed the possibilities for providing financial support to the host country for the second meeting. A draft budget was circulated and updated. It seemed that a number of sponsors would be able to provide sufficient support. The potential sponsors were requested to confirm their intention before the second meeting of the Working Group.

7. The Bureau considered elements for a possible draft work plan for 2000-2002 prepared by the secretariat and requested its members to provide the secretariat by the end of January 2000 at the latest with an updated list of elements for the work plan as well as for a ministerial declaration. It concluded that at the meeting in Sofia decisions on possible amendments to the Convention could already be taken.

IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8. There was no other business to be discussed and the meeting was closed.

Annex**PROVISIONAL LIST OF MEETINGS IN RELATION TO THE CONVENTION
FOR THE YEARS 2000 AND 2001****2000**

10-11 January	London	Group on non-compliance guidelines
20-21 January	Rome	Second meeting on recent EIA developments and links with other ECE Conventions
14-17 February	Moscow	Workshop on public participation in a transboundary context
21-22 February	The Hague	Workshop on aspects of bilateral and multilateral cooperation
28 Feb.-1 March	Warsaw	Training course for country data managers
13 March	Geneva	Third meeting of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties
29-31 May	Geneva	Second meeting of the Working Group on EIA
9-11 October	Geneva	Third meeting of the Working Group on EIA (and preparatory meeting for the second meeting of the Parties)

2001

24-27 February	Sofia	Second meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
----------------	-------	---