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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

**MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO
THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH
TO THE 1992 CONVENTION ON THE
PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

First meeting,
Budapest, 2-3 November 2000

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING */

to be held at the Hotel Helia, Budapest,
starting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 2 November 2000

*/ Prepared by the joint secretariat in consultation with the Chairman of the Working Group on Water and Health.

1. Opening statements.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Rules of procedure (ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex III).
4. Election of officers.
5. Report by the joint secretariat on progress since the adoption of the Protocol (MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/3 – EUR/ICP/5021651/3).
6. Problems and successes in implementing action required by the Protocol and priorities for future action.
7. Development of principles for guidelines on national and international surveillance, early-warning and notification systems.
8. Country presentations on surveillance, early-warning and notification systems.
9. Priorities for action to assess health risks.
10. Facilitating access to sources of finance, through improving the formulation of programmes and projects.
11. Work plan (MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/4 – EUR/ICP/5021651/4).
12. Other business.
13. Report of the meeting.
14. Closure.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The first meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health will be held in Budapest (Hotel Helia) at the invitation of the Government of Hungary. It will start on 2 November 2000 at 9 a.m. and close on 3 November 2000 at 4 p.m.

The working languages of the meeting are English, French, German and Russian. For further information on organizational matters, delegations are invited to contact the host authorities at the address given in the annex.

Item 1: Opening statements

A representative of Hungary will make an opening statement on behalf of the host country. The representatives of the UN/ECE and WHO/EURO secretariats, which carry out the secretariat functions for the Protocol, will also address the Meeting.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Rules of procedure

Following the proposal by the Working Group on Water and Health at its special meeting (Budapest, 3-4 April 2000), the Meeting of the Signatories is expected to apply, mutatis mutandis, the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, revised at the second meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex III).

Item 4: Election of officers

Following established practice of the intergovernmental meetings that negotiated the Protocol on Water and Health, the Meeting of the Signatories is expected to elect a Chairperson, two Vice-Chairpersons, and a rapporteur. As set out in rule 18 of the rules of procedure (see item 3 above), the first meeting will be chaired by a representative of the host country, Hungary.

Item 5: Report by the joint secretariat on progress since the adoption of the Protocol

The Meeting will examine a note by the joint secretariat on progress since the adoption of the Protocol (MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/3 – EUR/ICP/5021651/3). It will also consider the outcome of the Conference on sustainable water management and health held on 1 June 2000 on the occasion of the Fourth International Congress and Trade Fair “ECWATECH-2000” (Moscow, 30 May – 2 June 2000).

Item 6: Problems and successes in implementing action required by the Protocol and priorities for future action

Representatives of the Signatories will report on the steps that they have taken to implement the Protocol and to strive for its early entry into force. The joint secretariat will invite certain Signatories to take a lead in the debate.

Item 7: Development of principles for guidelines on national and international surveillance, early-warning and notification systems

The lead country, Hungary, will prepare, together with other interested countries, a note on important issues to be addressed in developing national surveillance, early-warning and notification systems, and present ideas for international cooperation. This note will include suggestions for principles to be approved by the Meeting of the Signatories as a basis for developing draft guidelines for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting.

Item 8: Country presentations on surveillance, early-warning and notification systems

The joint secretariat, in consultation with the host country, will invite some countries to make presentations on what they have found successful in this field and on problems that they have encountered.

Item 9: Priorities for action to assess health risks

The Meeting will exchange views on how to assess priorities for action, including promoting the involvement of the health community (doctors, hospitals, etc.) in the process. The joint secretariat, in consultation with the host country, will invite some Signatory States and international organizations to prepare notes on the mechanisms for evaluating health risks from chemical, microbiological and physical (floods) sources. These notes will propose a small number of important points on this process, suitable for endorsement by the Meeting of the Signatories as a basis for work in this field.

Item 10: Facilitating access to sources of finance, through improving the formulation of programmes and projects

The Russian Federation will submit a note on lessons learnt from the pilot projects on monitoring and assessing transboundary rivers.

The joint secretariat, in consultation with the host country, will invite other countries, international organizations, institutions, programmes and private sector bodies to inform the Meeting of existing international cooperation and of the means to move from the identification of a problem, through the formulation of a solution to the identification of sources of finance and managing their involvement. The question of how to involve the local health community and small water companies in the process will be particularly addressed.

The Meeting will examine the written and oral presentations, and make arrangements for assisting Signatories in the formulation and implementation of projects.

Item 11: Work plan

The Meeting will consider the draft work plan (MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/4 – EUR/ICP/5021651/4), which will specify programme area IV “Water and human health” of the 2000-2003 work plan under the Convention. The Meeting will include activities linked to the interim implementation of the Protocol, pending its entry into force, and decide on further preparations for the first meeting of the Parties. The work plan will set out suggestions for the implementation of these tasks by existing Working Groups established under the Convention, lead Parties/Signatories and/or the joint secretariat.

Item 12: Other business

At the time of writing, the joint secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Item 13: Report of the meeting

Following the practice of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, the Meeting of the Signatories may wish to entrust its officers with adopting on its behalf the report to be drawn up by the joint secretariat. The report will be published under document symbol MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/2 – EUR/ICP/5021651/2.

Item 14: Closure

A representative of Hungary will close the first meeting of the Signatories on 3 November 2000 at 4 p.m.

Annex

VENUE, FOCAL POINTS AND SECRETARIAT

I. VENUE

The first meeting of the Signatories will take place at:

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**II. FOCAL POINTS OF THE HOST COUNTRY TO BE CONTACTED
ON ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

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III. RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS FOR THE PROTOCOL

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