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**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

Tenth meeting  
Geneva, 21–23 May 2007

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TENTH MEETING**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 21 May 2007\*

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Inquiry procedure
3. Workshop on the exchange of good practices in transboundary environmental impact assessment methodologies

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\* Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available from the Convention's website at <http://www.unece.org/env/eia/practical.html> and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat, at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting, either by fax to +41 22 917 0613 / 0107 or by e-mail to [eia.conv@unece.org](mailto:eia.conv@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix, entrance to the Palais des Nations (a map is available at <http://www.unece.org/meetings/map.pdf>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2447.

4. Activities relating to the Convention listed in the workplan (decision III/9)
  - (a) Compliance with and implementation of the Convention
  - (b) Exchange of good practices
  - (c) Subregional cooperation to strengthen contacts between the Parties
  - (d) Capacity-building in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)
  - (e) Examination of the substantive relationship between the Convention and the Protocol
  - (f) Institutional and procedural activities under the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
5. Fourth meeting of the Parties
6. Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention
7. Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
8. Budget and financial arrangements (decision III/10, para. 9)
9. Provisions for transboundary environmental impact assessment in other multilateral environmental agreements
10. Other business
11. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting

## **II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

### **Item 2: Inquiry procedure**

1. The chair of the inquiry commission, Professor Joost Terwindt, is expected to report on the outcome of the Inquiry Procedure established at the request of Romania, including the commission's opinion and recommendations. The secretariat will present a paper on its findings on how the procedure worked and recommendations for its improvement (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/5). The meeting will be invited to consider the opinion, findings and recommendations.

### **Item 3: Workshop on the exchange of good practices in transboundary environmental impact assessment methodologies**

2. The delegation of Tajikistan, in cooperation with the delegations of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, is expected to hold a brief workshop within the meeting on the exchange of good practices in transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA) methodologies.

**Item 4: Activities relating to the Convention listed in the workplan (decision III/9)****(a) Compliance with and implementation of the Convention**

3. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on this activity. She will present the reports of the Committee's tenth and eleventh meetings (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/3 and ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/4, respectively). She will also report on any submissions that the Committee is considering. Finally, she is expected to present a draft decision on the review of compliance, to which will be appended the Committee's report to the fourth meeting of the Parties and, possibly, operating rules for the conduct of Committee meetings. The Chair is expected to report on the intended content of the latter two documents.

4. The secretariat will identify which Parties have responded to the questionnaire on implementation sent to the Parties and non-Parties in October 2005. The secretariat is also expected to present the intended content of the draft second review of implementation, based on the responses to the questionnaire. The Bureau is expected to present a draft decision on the review of implementation, to which the second review of implementation is expected to be appended.

**(b) Exchange of good practices**

5. Further to the decision taken at the ninth meeting of the Working Group (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, para. 13), the delegations of Bulgaria, Switzerland and Tajikistan are expected to present elements for the draft reports on the three workshops for the exchange of good practices. The Bureau is expected to present a draft decision on the exchange of good practices.

**(c) Subregional cooperation to strengthen contacts between the Parties**

6. The delegation of Sweden is expected to report on a meeting for the Baltic Sea subregion, held in Copenhagen on 8 November 2006. In addition, and further to the information provided to the Working Group at its ninth meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, para. 19), the delegation of the Russian Federation is expected to provide updated procedural information on the proposed gas pipeline between the Russian Federation and Germany.

7. The delegation of Italy is expected to report on a meeting for the Mediterranean Sea subregion, held in Morocco in March 2007.

8. Further to the decision taken at the ninth meeting of the Working Group (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, para. 18), the delegations of the lead countries are expected to present elements of common draft reports on the subregional cooperation workshops. The Bureau is expected to present a draft decision on subregional cooperation.

**(d) Capacity-building in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)**

9. The delegations of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are expected to report on a transboundary EIA pilot project in Kyrgyzstan involving Kazakhstan as an affected Party. The delegation of Tajikistan is expected to report on a training workshop relating to EIA, including the practical application of the Convention.

10. The delegations of the other lead countries for this activity, including Armenia and Ukraine, will be invited to report on the preparations for forthcoming capacity-building workshops.

11. Further to the decision taken at the ninth meeting of the Working Group (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, para. 25), the delegations of the lead countries are expected to present elements of common draft reports on capacity-building in EECCA. The Bureau is expected to present a draft decision on this activity, to which will be appended the guidelines on the application of the Convention in Central Asia (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, para. 20).

12. In addition, the delegation of Belarus is expected to report on capacity-building activities in Belarus, including an informal meeting held on 23–24 November 2006 at the request of the Government of Belarus and a planned pilot project.

**(e) Examination of the substantive relationship between the Convention and the Protocol**

13. The Working Group is expected to discuss the need for a full examination of the substantive relationship between the Convention and its Protocol, bearing in mind the study on the relationship between two European Commission Directives, one on EIA and the other on strategic environmental assessment (SEA), the outcome of which was presented by a representative of the European Commission at the Working Group's ninth meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, paras. 27–29).

**(f) Institutional and procedural activities under the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

14. Further to the decision taken at the ninth meeting of the Working Group (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, para. 31), the delegations of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, together with the Chair of the Implementation Committee, will be invited to present a consolidated draft decision on institutional and procedural activities under the Protocol.

**Item 5: Fourth meeting of the Parties**

15. The Chair of the Bureau will report on the practical arrangements for the fourth meeting of the Parties to be held in Romania. He is expected to present a detailed budget and to invite contributions. The Bureau is expected to report on possible elements of a draft programme for the meeting, including the invitation of speakers.

16. Further to the decision taken at the ninth meeting of the Working Group (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, para. 36), the Bureau will present a list of draft decisions and a list of possible elements for the future workplan for discussion by the Working Group.

17. The Working Group is expected to decide on steps to be taken to prepare for the fourth meeting of the Parties, including the drafting of the provisional agenda, the development of the workplan and budget, and the further drafting of decisions on possibly the following, among other matters:

- (a) Review of implementation
- (b) Review of compliance
- (c) Strengthening subregional cooperation
- (d) Capacity-building in EECCA

- (e) Exchange of good practices
- (f) Adoption of the workplan for the period up to the fifth meeting of the Parties
- (g) Budget and financial arrangements for the period up to the fifth meeting of the Parties
- (h) Financial assistance to representatives of countries in transition, non-governmental organizations and countries outside the UNECE region

18. The delegation of Romania will remind the Working Group that a subregional agreement on the implementation of the Convention among the countries of South-East Europe will be signed in Bucharest on the occasion of the Meeting of the Parties.

**Item 6: Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention**

19. Further to the decision taken at the ninth meeting of the Working Group (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2006/2, para. 39), the delegations of Romania and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, along with a representative of ECOGLOBE, will present the content of a CD-ROM to be made available during the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, October 2007). The secretariat will inform the meeting of possibilities for preparing a leaflet for the Belgrade Conference, and the Bureau is expected to make further proposals on how to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention during the Conference. The Working Group is expected to decide on further steps to be taken to prepare for the Conference.

**Item 7: Status of ratification of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

20. The secretariat will report on the status of the Convention, its amendments and its Protocol. Delegations will be invited to provide informal indications of future planned ratifications. The Bureau is expected to advise the Working Group on the likely date of the third meeting of the Signatories, having taken into account the number of ratifications of the Protocol.

**Item 8: Budget and financial arrangements (decision III/10, para. 9)**

21. The delegations of Bulgaria and the United Kingdom are expected to present a revised draft decision on the budget and financial arrangements.

22. The secretariat will present the fourth semi-annual financial report, including a report on the receipt of pledges made at the third meeting of the Parties and on any outstanding pledges. All Parties will be invited to provide additional contributions towards activities under the workplan, taking into account the extended period between the third and fourth meetings of the Parties.

**Item 9: Provisions for transboundary environmental impact assessment in other multilateral environmental agreements**

23. Delegations will be invited to report on their bilateral and multilateral agreements with provisions for transboundary environmental impact assessment.

**Item 10: Other business**

24. Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

**Item 11: Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting**