



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/MP.EIA/2008/2
20 February 2008

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

Fourth meeting
Bucharest, 19–21 May 2008
Item 2(a) of the provisional agenda

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION

Report of the Implementation Committee on its thirteenth meeting

Report by the Implementation Committee

Summary

The Meeting of the Parties established the Implementation Committee for the review of compliance by the Parties with their obligations under the Convention with a view to assisting them fully to meet their commitments (decision II/4). The present report gives an account of the thirteenth meeting of the Implementation Committee, held from 30 October to 1 November 2007 in Geneva, further to (a) the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee and procedures for review of compliance (decision III/2), and (b) the adopted workplan (decision III/9). The meeting prepared draft findings and recommendations (a) further to a submission by Romania regarding its concerns about Ukraine's compliance with its obligations under the Convention, and (b) regarding Armenia's implementation of the Convention.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Representatives from the following Parties members of the Implementation Committee attended the meeting: Armenia (Ms. Margarita Korkhmazyan), Croatia (Mr. Nenad Mikulic), Finland (Ms. Seija Rantakallio), Germany (Mr. Matthias Sauer), Kyrgyzstan (Mr. Kubanychbek Noruzbaev), Poland (Mr. Jerzy Jendroska) and Slovakia (Mr. Tomáš Černoš). The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a member of the Committee, was not represented.
2. The Chair of the Committee, Ms. Rantakallio, opened the meeting on Tuesday, 30 October 2007. The Committee adopted its agenda as prepared by the secretariat.
3. The secretariat informed the Committee that the representative of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had left her country's Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning but had not been replaced. Further information was expected at the next meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), to be held from 21 to 23 November 2007. **The Committee agreed not to elect a Vice-Chair immediately, pending further information.** The Committee welcomed the new representative of Kyrgyzstan.

II. REVIEW OF THE COMPLIANCE REPORTING SYSTEM

4. The Committee continued its consideration of specific compliance issues identified through the examination of the previous review of implementation. Further to the Committee's decisions at its eleventh meeting (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/4, para. 13), the secretariat in consultation with the Chair had contracted a consultant to provide technical advice to review the Armenian current and draft legislation on EIA in more detail, with reference to paragraph 7 and subject to paragraph 11 of the description of the Committee's structure and functions (appended to decision III/2). The Committee thanked the secretariat, together with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, for arranging for a consultant to examine the implementation of the Convention in Armenia, and welcomed the consultant, Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov, to the meeting. The Committee thanked Mr. Skrylnikov for his informal report to the Committee.
5. Mr. Skrylnikov provided a verbal report on his assignment, including clarifying the relationship between EIA and the similar systems inherited from the former Soviet Union by several countries with economies in transition. He described the current relevant legislation in Armenia, draft future legislation and those implementing regulations that had yet to be drafted.
6. The Committee, with the exception of Ms. Korkhmazyan (Armenia), then drafted its findings and recommendations regarding Armenia's implementation of the Convention. **The Committee asked the Chair to send these to Armenia inviting its comments or representations in accordance with paragraph 9 of the description of the Committee's structure and functions.** Given the limited period before the fourth meeting of the Parties, **the Committee agreed that it would not translate the draft findings and recommendations into Russian. The Committee agreed to finalize its findings and recommendations at its next meeting.** The findings would be provided as an appendix to the draft decision on the review of

compliance, to be put before the Meeting of the Parties for its consideration, and any recommendations would be included within the draft decision itself.

IV. OPERATING RULES

7. The Committee noted that the Working Group on EIA at its tenth meeting had welcomed without comment the draft operating rules, and had agreed that delegations provide detailed comments on the draft operating rules in writing to the secretariat by 21 June 2007 (ECE/MP/EIA/WG.1/2007/2, para. 15). No comments had been received, so **the Committee agreed to present the draft rules unchanged to the next meeting of the Working Group.**

V. REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES ON THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES

8. **The Committee reviewed its draft report to the Meeting of the Parties and agreed that it be made available to the next meeting of the Working Group on EIA.**

VII. SUBMISSION BY ROMANIA

9. Further to its twelfth meeting, the Committee considered the submission by Romania, received on 23 January 2007, regarding its concerns about Ukraine's compliance with its obligations under the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/2008/1, paras. 3–6). The Committee prepared draft findings and recommendations. **The Committee asked the Chair to send these to the two Parties, inviting their comments or representations in accordance with paragraph 9 of the description of the Committee's structure and functions.** Given the limited period before the fourth meeting of the Parties, **the Committee agreed that it would not translate the draft findings and recommendations into Russian. The Committee agreed to finalize its findings and recommendations at its next meeting.** The findings would be provided as an appendix to the draft decision on the review of compliance, to be put before the Meeting of the Parties for its consideration, and any recommendations would be included within the draft decision itself.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

10. **The Committee decided to meet next from 15 to 17 January 2008 in Geneva.**

11. The Chair closed the meeting on Thursday, 1 November 2007.
