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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Working Group of the Parties to the Convention

Eleventh meeting  
Geneva, 8–10 July 2009

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE PARTIES  
ON ITS ELEVENTH SESSION**

**Addendum**

**REPORTING FORMAT FOR THE ALMATY AMENDMENT  
TO THE CONVENTION<sup>1</sup>**

Adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group of the Parties  
held from 8 to 10 July 2009 in Geneva, pending formal endorsement by  
the Meeting of the Parties

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<sup>1</sup> The amendment to the Convention adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its second session, held from 25 to 27 May 2005 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, through decision II/1 on genetically modified organisms.

*The Working Group of the Parties,*

*Recalling paragraph 15 of decision III/5 on reporting requirements, through which the Meeting of the Parties mandated the Working Group of the Parties to revise the reporting format to accommodate information on the implementation of the amendment to the Convention (article 6 bis and annex I bis), in time for the additional information to be incorporated in the implementation reports prepared for the fourth meeting of the Parties,*

1. *Adopts* the reporting format set out below for article 6 bis and annex I bis, following the reporting format laid down in decision I/8, for use by the Parties in preparing their implementation reports for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties, pending the review and formal endorsement of the revised reporting format by the Meeting of the Parties.

**Article 6 bis and annex I bis**

**Concerning legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms in article 6 bis, describe:**

- (a) With respect to **paragraph 1** of article 6 bis and:
- (i) **Paragraph 1** of annex I bis, arrangements in the Party's regulatory framework to ensure effective information and public participation for decisions subject to the provisions of article 6 bis;
  - (ii) **Paragraph 2** of annex I bis, any exceptions provided for in the Party's regulatory framework to the public participation procedure laid down in annex I bis and the criteria for any such exception;
  - (iii) **Paragraph 3** of annex I bis, measures taken to make available to the public in an adequate, timely and effective manner a summary of the notification introduced to obtain an authorization for the deliberate release or placing on the market, as well as the assessment report where available;
  - (iv) **Paragraph 4** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that in no case the information listed in that paragraph is considered as confidential;
  - (v) **Paragraph 5** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure the transparency of decision-making procedures and to provide access to the relevant procedural information to the public including, for example:
    - a. The nature of possible decisions;
    - b. The public authority responsible for making the decision;
    - c. Public participation arrangements laid down pursuant to paragraph 1 of annex I bis;

- d. An indication of the public authority from which relevant information can be obtained;
- e. An indication of the public authority to which comments can be submitted and of the time schedule for the transmittal of comments;
- (vi) **Paragraph 6** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that the arrangements introduced to implement paragraph 1 of annex I bis allow the public to submit, in any appropriate manner, any comments, information, analyses or opinions that it considers relevant to the proposed deliberate release or placing on the market;
- (vii) **Paragraph 7** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that due account is taken of the outcome of public participation procedures organized pursuant to paragraph 1 of annex I bis;
- (viii) **Paragraph 8** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that the texts of decisions subject to the provisions on annex I bis taken by a public authority are made publicly available along with the reasons and the considerations upon which they are based;
- (b) With respect to **paragraph 2** of article 6 bis, how the requirements made in accordance with the provisions of annex I bis are complementary to and mutually supportive of the Party's national biosafety framework and consistent with the objectives of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biodiversity.

*Answer:*

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 6 bis and annex I bis.

*Answer:*

**Provide further information on the practical application of the provisions on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms in article 6 bis, e.g. are there any statistics or other information available on public participation in such decisions or on decisions considered under paragraph 2 of annex I bis to be exceptions to the public participation procedures in that annex?**

*Answer:*

Give relevant website addresses, if available, including website addresses for registers of decisions and releases related to genetically modified organisms:

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