Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Compliance Committee
Sixth meeting
Geneva, 1 and 2 March 2011

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in Salle XV, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 1 March 2011*

I. Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Compliance Committee.
4. Consultation with Parties to facilitate implementation and compliance.
6. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure.

* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the registration form (available online at: www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm), and to transmit it to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting — namely, by 15 February 2011 — either by fax (+41 22 917 0621) or by e-mail (cammile.marcelo@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, participants should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 14 (see the map available online at the address given above for registration forms). Please allow sufficient time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 3227.
7. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings.
8. Any other business.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

1. In accordance with its decision I/2 of on review of compliance, at its second session (Bucharest, 23–25 November 2010), the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes re-elected Ms. Ilona Drulyte, Lithuania, and Ms. Diana Iskrea, Bulgaria, and elected Ms. Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Hungary, and Mr. Veit Koester, Denmark, to serve as members of the Compliance Committee until the fourth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.

2. In accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to decision I/2, the Committee will elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

3. The newly elected members of the Committee will make a solemn declaration that he or she will perform his or her functions impartially and conscientiously.

2. Adoption of the agenda

4. The Compliance Committee will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

3. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Compliance Committee

5. The secretariat will inform the Committee of relevant developments since its fifth meeting (Geneva, 22–23 June 2010).

4. Consultation with Parties to facilitate implementation and compliance

6. On the basis of the analysis of the summary reports submitted by Parties before the second session of the Meeting of the Parties, the Compliance Committee had concluded, at its fifth meeting, that a number of Parties were facing difficulties in complying with the Protocol, in particular with its core obligation to set targets and target dates. To respond to that situation and to stimulate compliance among the Protocol’s Parties, the Committee had decided to enhance its facilitation and assistance functions. To that end, the Committee agreed that it would enter into consultations with a number of Parties which, on the basis of the national summary reports, appeared to have problems in implementing the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH.C.1/2010/4–EUR/10/56335/16, para. 26).

7. The Committee will discuss the specific objectives of such consultations and consider the modalities to carry them out. In particular, the Committee will be invited to discuss the following issues:

(a) Overall scope, objectives and possible results of the consultations;
(b) Ways and means to engage in consultations with Parties;
(c) Level of confidentiality of the consultation process;
(d) Parties to be approached, taking into account the capacity and resource limitations of the Committee. At its fifth meeting, the Committee agreed that the Parties with which it would enter into consultations would be approached on the basis of the information available to the Committee and in consultation with the Bureau of the Protocol;
(e) Possible actions that the Committee could undertake for gathering additional information in order to better understand the kind of difficulties that have emerged;
(f) Cooperation with other bodies under the Protocol, in particular the Task Force on Water-related Disease Surveillance, the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting, and the Project Facilitation Mechanism.

8. The Committee will also discuss modalities and arrangements to organize its future work in this area.

5. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

9. The Committee will recall past action to explore the relationship between the Protocol and the human right to water and sanitation, and to establish cooperation on this issue with the secretariat of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The Committee will discuss possible future steps in this area.

6. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure

10. The Committee will discuss further ways of raising awareness on the compliance procedure, taking into account the work carried out over the past three years, in particular the leaflet on “Improving compliance with the Protocol on Water and Health”, prepared for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties.

7. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings

11. The Committee will discuss its future programme of work, will agree on issues for consideration at its next meetings and will give indications to the secretariat on the next steps to be taken. The Committee will also agree on the dates of its seventh and eighth meetings, taking into account that the seventh meeting was tentatively scheduled for 4 and 5 October 2011.

8. Any other business

12. Committee members wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.