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Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Implementation Committee

Twenty-fifth session

Geneva, 11–13 September 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 11 September 2012*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Submissions.
3. Committee initiative.
4. Review of implementation.
5. Information gathering.
6. Other business.
7. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session.

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Members of the Committee and observers are therefore requested to complete the registration form available from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website (<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>) and to transmit it to the Convention secretariat, **at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting**, either by fax to +41 22 917 0107 or by e-mail to eia.conv@unece.org. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit at the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section at the Pregny gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the ECE website (http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf).

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

1. This provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) in agreement with the Implementation Committee Chair, in accordance with the Implementation Committee's operating rules (ECE/MP.EIA/10, decision IV/2, annex IV, as amended by decision V/4, ECE/MP.EIA/15). The Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Submissions

2. Discussion under this agenda item will not be open to observers, except if invited by the Implementation Committee.

3. The Committee will first continue its consideration of the submission by Azerbaijan expressing concerns about Armenia's compliance with its obligations under the Convention. The Committee is expected to finalize its findings and recommendations, taking into account representations and further information requested from the two Parties.

4. Next, the Committee will continue its consideration of the submission by Lithuania expressing concerns about compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention. The Committee is expected to prepare its draft findings and recommendations on the matter, taking into account the information and opinions provided by the two Parties at the Committee's twenty-fourth session (20–23 March 2012). Following the session, the Committee's draft findings and recommendations will be transmitted to both Parties for their comments or representations.

5. The Committee will then consider the submission by Armenia expressing concerns about Azerbaijan's compliance with its obligations under the Convention. It is expected to review the documentation and additional information available to establish whether it needs to request further information prior to the hearing of the two Parties, scheduled to take place at the Committee's twenty-sixth session (26–28 November 2012). It will also discuss organizational matters in connection with the hearing.

6. The Committee will also examine any submissions by Parties received since the Committee's previous session.

3. Committee initiative

7. Discussion under this agenda item will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 of the operating rules.

8. The Committee will continue its consideration of its initiative on Azerbaijan further to paragraph 6 of the appendix to decision III/2. The Committee is expected to provide its views on the report prepared by a consultant, including recommendations for further strengthening Azerbaijan's capacity to implement and comply fully with its obligations under the Convention.

4. Review of implementation

9. The Meeting of the Parties mandated the Committee to simplify the questionnaire for the implementation of the Convention and to extend it to the Protocol on SEA, with a view to providing a questionnaire on the review of implementation of the Convention and of Protocol during the period 2010–2012 (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2, decision V/7). In line with this mandate, and taking due account of the feedback provided by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment during and after its first meeting (24–26 April 2012), the Committee is expected to complete the work by finalizing the SEA part of the questionnaire, which will be annexed to the report of the Committee's twenty-fifth session.

10. As part of its examination of the specific compliance issues from the Third Review of Implementation, the Committee is invited to consider the issue of the written clarifications from Portugal, pending since 15 November 2011.

5. Information gathering

11. Discussion under this agenda item will not be open to observers, except if invited by the Committee.

12. Subject to the availability of time, taking into account the deliberations at its twenty-third session,¹ the Committee may wish to continue its consideration of replies from Ukraine and Romania regarding activities proposed in their countries. It may also wish to consider information submitted by a non-governmental organization from Belarus regarding a planned activity in Lithuania, close to the border with Belarus.

13. Finally, time allowing, the Committee may wish to consider progress in and comment on the development of general guidance to resolve a possible systemic inconsistency between the Convention and environmental assessment within the framework of the State ecological expertise system in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

6. Other business

14. Members of the Committee wishing to raise other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

7. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session

15. The Committee is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting and to confirm the date and location of its next session before the Chair formally closes the session.

¹ See the report of the twenty-third session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2011/8).