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**Economic Commission for Europe****World Health Organization  
Regional Office 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****Eighth meeting**

Geneva, 10 October 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda****Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth meeting**

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on  
Wednesday, 10 October 2012, at 10 a.m.\***

**I. Provisional Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Relevant developments since the seventh meeting of the Compliance Committee.
3. Consultation with Parties to facilitate implementation of the Protocol.
4. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with other bodies of relevance for the work of the Committee.

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\* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the registration form, available online from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website ([http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical\\_information/confpart.pdf](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical_information/confpart.pdf)), and to transmit it to the ECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting (i.e., by 24 September 2012) by e-mail ([katri.veldre@unece.org](mailto:katri.veldre@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 on the ECE website, <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). Please allow sufficient time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at 41 22 917 1911.

5. Review of compliance with reporting requirements under the Protocol.
6. Report from the Committee to the Meeting of the Parties at its third session.
7. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure.
8. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings.
9. Any other business.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

1. The Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document. The one-day meeting will start at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 October 2012 and last until 6 p.m.

### **2. Relevant developments since the seventh meeting of the Compliance Committee**

2. The secretariat will inform the Committee of relevant developments since its seventh meeting (Geneva, 3 November 2011), in particular the election of Mr. Oddvar Georg Lindholm by the Bureau of the Protocol to replace Mr. Truls Krogh on the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 7 of decision I/2 on review of compliance.

3. It will also inform the Committee of relevant outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Water Convention's Legal Board (Geneva, 31 January – 1 February 2012). At that meeting, the Legal Board reached a final agreement on a mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance and adopted the core rules of procedure of the Implementation Committee to be set up under the Water Convention.

### **3. Consultation with Parties to facilitate implementation of the Protocol**

4. On the basis of the analysis of the summary reports submitted by Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health before the second session of the Meeting of the Parties (Bucharest, 23–25 November 2010), the Compliance Committee concluded, at its fifth meeting, that a number of Parties were facing difficulties. To respond to that situation and to stimulate compliance among the Protocol's Parties, the Committee 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, and ECE/MP.WH/2010/3–EUDHP/1003944/4.2/1/9, para. 76). That decision was communicated to and endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.

5. At its sixth meeting, the Committee had agreed on the modalities of the consultation process. In particular, the Committee agreed:

(a) On the nature, scope and objectives of such consultations, their procedures, the relationship with the compliance procedure and the results of the consultation process (see ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2011/2–EUR/DHP1003944/4.2/2011/2);

(b) On the number of Parties the Committee could support through consultations, taking into account the capacity and resource limitations of the Committee, together with the characteristics of Parties that would most benefit from the consultations (*ibid.*).

6. To encourage Parties to avail themselves of the consultation process, the decisions of the Committee on the scope, objectives and procedures were circulated to all Parties and presented to the members of the Bureau. An information session on the consultation process was also held in the framework of the fourth meeting of Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, 1–2 November 2011). A letter by the Chair of the Compliance Committee was circulated in January 2012 to all focal points of Parties to the Protocol, informing them about the consultation process and inviting expressions of interest. At the time of writing, no expression of interest from Parties has been received.

7. The Committee will discuss its approach, to further encourage Parties to take advantage of the offered consultation process, and agree on the next steps, including:

(a) Its presentation of the consultation process to Parties at the fifth session of the Working Group on Water and Health (Geneva, 11–12 October 2012), and the holding of private information sessions with representatives of Parties potentially interested on the afternoon of 11 October 2012;

(b) Ways and means to further publicize the consultation process;

(c) The advisability of and opportunities for proactively engaging individual Parties and, if so, which Parties and by what means.

#### **4. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with other bodies of relevance for the work of the Committee**

8. The Committee discussed at its seventh meeting opportunities and means to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The Chair of the Committee will provide information on the follow-up actions taken since the seventh meeting.

9. He will also inform the Committee of other opportunities for cooperation with human rights bodies as a follow-up to the exchange with Mr. Riedel, a member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, at the Compliance Committee's seventh meeting.

10. The Chair will also brief members on the initiative to promote an informal exchange between committees reviewing implementation and compliance under the multilateral environmental agreements of the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe, in order to promote good practices and lessons-learned.

#### **5. Review of compliance with reporting requirements under the Protocol**

11. In accordance with its mandate (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3, decision I/2, annex, para. 11 (c)), the Committee will discuss its role in monitoring and assessing compliance with the reporting requirements under article 7, paragraph 5, of the Protocol, in relation to the second reporting exercise prior to the third session of the Meeting of the Parties.

12. The summary reports prepared by Parties in accordance with the guidelines adopted at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties will become available in spring 2013. In

February 2013, a workshop on reporting will be held back to back with the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting to assist Parties in the finalization of their summary reports.

13. The Committee will discuss arrangements for its review of the national summary reports, taking into account the experience with the review of the summary reports during the pilot reporting exercise prior to the second session of the Meeting of the Parties (first reporting exercise) (see the report of the Compliance Committee submitted to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session, ECE/MP.WH/2010/3–EUDHP/1003944/4.2/1/9). In particular, the Committee is expected to agree on work-sharing arrangements, the timeline for the review of the reports and next steps to prepare and finalize its work.

## **6. Report from the Committee to the Meeting of the Parties at its third session**

14. The Committee will discuss the preparation of the report on its activities to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties at its third session, pursuant to chapter X of the annex to decision I/2 on the review of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3).

15. In particular, the Committee will agree on the format and the content of the report on its activities to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties. The Committee is expected to agree on the outline and content of the report and to make a work-sharing arrangement for the drafting of the various sections, according to the expertise and scientific or legal backgrounds of Committee members.

## **7. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure**

16. The secretariat and the Committee members will exchange information on efforts undertaken to disseminate information and raise awareness about the compliance procedure and will discuss future action in this area.

17. The secretariat will inform the Committee of relevant outcomes of the joint event,<sup>1</sup> “Public participation in environmental decision-making: focus on water and health”, held in Geneva from 6 to 8 June 2012, which highlighted the role of the public in the review of compliance. The Committee will also be informed about the launch of the elaboration of the new guidelines on public participation under the Protocol on Water and Health, which will contribute to raising awareness on the possibility for the public to submit communications to the Compliance Committee.

## **8. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings**

18. 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 ninth meeting in 2013, taking into account the review of national reports and preparations of the Committee’s report for the Meeting of the Parties at its third session.

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<sup>1</sup> A joint meeting organized under the auspices of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making of the Aarhus Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Romania and the non-governmental organization, Women in Europe for a Common Future.

**9. Any other business**

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

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