

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention  
serving as the Meeting of the Parties  
to the Protocol on Strategic  
Environmental Assessment

### **Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

#### **Fifth meeting**

Geneva, 11–15 April 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

### **Informal notes on the agenda**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

This paper presents an overview of agenda items (in chronological order), associated documentation (official, informal “INF” and other) and actions that the delegates are invited to take.

Timing of the items is indicative and subject to changes depending on the deliberations during the meeting.

| <i>Day</i>                  | <i>Time</i>     | <i>Agenda item</i>               | <i>Documents</i>   | <i>Actions</i>  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Monday,<br/>11 April</b> | 15.00–<br>15.15 | <b>1. Adoption of the agenda</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisional agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/1)</li> <li>• (These) informal notes on the agenda (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.1)</li> </ul> <p><i>Delegates may also wish to refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal notes on meeting of Bureau, 19–20 January 2016</li> <li>• Report of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment on its fourth meeting<br/>ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2015/2</li> <li>• Report of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP) and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP/MOP) (ECE/MP.EIA/20-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4), including the decisions adopted by the two bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.1 and ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1/Corr.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.1/Corr.1</li> <li>○ ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.2-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.2</li> <li>○ ECE/MP.EIA/20-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4.Add.3</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to adopt the agenda of its meeting.</li> </ul>  |
|                             | 15.15–<br>17.00 | <b>2. Status of ratification</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of ratification (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.2)</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Delegations</b> will be invited to report on planned ratifications of the Convention and its two amendments. In particular, <b>each Party to the Convention</b> that has not ratified the two amendments will be expected to report on its preparations for ratification; <b>delegations of the 13 States that were Parties to the Convention</b> at the time</p> |

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|            |             |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerating the entry into effect of the first amendment to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.3)</li> </ul> | <p>of adoption of the first amendment (27 February 2001) (<b>Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the UK</b>) will be invited to provide detailed information on steps taken towards ratification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Delegations/Signatories of the Protocol will be invited</b> report on its preparations to ratify the Protocol.</li> <li><b>Delegations/Signatories of the Bucharest Agreement (Albania, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece and Serbia) are invited</b> report on their preparations to ratify the Bucharest Agreement. Representatives of <b>Romania</b> are invited to report on arrangements for the workshop to prepare for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Bucharest Agreement.</li> <li><b>Delegations</b> are invited to discuss proposals by the Bureau for accelerating the entry into effect of the first amendment, including the possibility of adoption of a separate Agreement modifying article 17, new paragraph 3, and entering to force through a non-objection procedure.</li> <li>The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to recommend actions to be taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its 7<sup>th</sup> session in 2017 to accelerate the entry into effect of the first amendment; the entry into force of the second amendment to the Convention; and to encourage ratification of or accession to the Convention, and the Protocol</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Monday,<br/>11 April</b><br>17.00–18.00<br>and<br><b>Tuesday,<br/>12 April</b><br>10.00–12.00 |             | <b>3. Compliance and implementation</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.3)</li> <li>• Report of the Implementation Committee on its 34th session (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2015/4)</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.5)</li> <li>• Draft overview of the legislative reviews and legal advice on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.6)</li> <li>• Draft practical guidance on reforming legal and institutional structures with regard to application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.7)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Working Group</b> is expected to take note of the report of the Chair of the Implementation Committee on the Committee's 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> sessions.</li> <li>• <b>The Working Group</b> will note the report of the secretariat on the receipt of the completed questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol 2013–2015 and the plans for the preparation of the draft reviews of implementation. <b>The Working Group</b> is expected to comment the rate and timeliness of reporting and to provide guidance for the production of the draft reviews.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation</b> will be invited to report on the outcomes of the legislative assistance they have received (or for <b>Kazakhstan</b> will be receiving ) for developing new national legislation on SEA (and EIA.)</li> <li>• <b>The Working Group</b> is invited to comment and as needed to provide guidance for the finalization of two documents prepared by consultants to the secretariat: the draft overview of the legislative reviews and legal advice on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and the draft practical guidance on reforming legal and institutional structures with regard to application of the Protocol</li> </ul> |
|  |             | <b>3. Compliance and implementation (cont'd)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Background document</i><br/>Draft Guidelines on EIA in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/6)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Representative of Kyrgyzstan</b> and the secretariat will inform the Working Group about the plans for the further development and update of the Guidelines on EIA in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries</li> </ul>  |

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|            |             |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.1)</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative of <b>Azerbaijan</b>, and any other country that wishes to express its needs and request for (further) legislative assistance in the next interessional period 2017–2020 is invited to present them – for inclusion to waiting list and implemented as part of the workplan upon identification of their funding</li> </ul>   |
|            |             |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft guidance on implementation of the Convention drawing on opinions of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.8)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> will consider a report from the <b>Implementation Committee Chair</b> on the preparation of guidance on the implementation of the Convention (drawing on opinions of the Implementation Committee) and provide guidance for its further development. The guidance is expected to be developed by the Committee Chair in consultation with the Committee.</li> </ul>   |
|            |             |                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligning the authentic texts of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.4)</li> </ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Representatives of Belarus, France, the UK and Canada</b> will be invited to present proposals on how to address the inconsistencies in the text of the three authentic language versions of the Protocol and the two amendments to the Convention identified by the UN translation group, with a view to bringing them into line. <b>The Working Group</b> is expected to agree on discrepancies of a technical nature to be addressed through a correction procedure and any possible substantive inconsistencies to be addressed through the amendment procedure. It is also expected to invite the Bureau to prepare draft decisions for aligning the authentic language versions of the Protocol and the amendments to the Convention for consideration by the Meetings of the Parties in 2017.</li> </ul> |

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|                                     |                         |  | <p><i>Delegates may also wish to refer to:</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.unece.org/env/eia/publications.html">http://www.unece.org/env/eia/publications.html</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Opinions of the Implementation Committee, 2001–2014</li> <li>○ Structure and functions of the Implementation Committee, and procedures for review of compliance and consolidated operating rules (as amended in 2014)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The secretariat will report on the publications processed since the last meeting of the Working Group in May 2015.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Tuesday,<br/>12 April</b></p> | <p>12.00–<br/>13.00</p> | <p><b>4. Subregional cooperation and capacity building</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.3)</li> <li>• Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.1)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>representative of Lithuania</b> will be invited to report on the holding of a subregional cooperation workshop for the Baltic Sea area.</li> <li>• The secretariat and representative of <b>Georgia</b> will report on a subregional coordination and experience-sharing event held in Kakheti, Georgia.</li> <li>• A <b>representative of Latvia</b>, the secretariat and, as appropriate, <b>Ukraine</b>, are invited to report on the organization of other subregional cooperation and capacity-building events foreseen in the workplan.</li> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> will be invited to come forward with proposals for hosting or sponsoring subregional cooperation and/or capacity-building events in the next intersessional period, 2017–2020, within the ECE region or beyond. Representatives of <b>Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Croatia, Romania, and countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</b> are invited to comment possible activities proposed by the Bureau for the workplan 2017–2020 (currently waitlisted) referring to their countries.</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Tuesday, 12 April</b> | 15.00–17.00 | <b>5. Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplan implementation status (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.3)</li> <li>• Summary report on technical assistance and capacity-building activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.5)</li> <li>• Draft brochure on the Protocol on SEA and its benefits in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.9)</li> <li>• Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.1)</li> <li>• Fact sheet from Poland</li> <li>• IAIA “Fastips”</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> will be invited to comment a video and a draft brochure prepared by the secretariat to promote awareness about the Protocol and its benefits in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus and agree on actions for its dissemination within and beyond the region, as appropriate. <b>Delegations</b> will also be invited to suggest possible other material or means to further promote the Protocol that could be developed in the next intersessional period.</li> <li>• Representatives of the countries concerned (<b>Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine</b>). and the secretariat will be invited to report on: (a) the preparation of fact sheets on the application of SEA; (b) the development of national guidance documents on SEA</li> <li>• Representatives of <b>lead countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan and Ukraine)</b>, or the secretariat, will be invited to report on workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol held or under preparation.</li> <li>• Representatives of <b>lead countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Russian Federation)</b>, and/or the secretariat, will be invited to report on preparation for/implementation of pilot projects.</li> <li>• <b>Delegations in particular from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</b> will be invited to express possible priority needs for further activities in the period 2017–2020 that would facilitate their countries’ accession to and implementation of the Protocol.</li> <li>• A <b>representative of Poland</b> may wish to present its case study on the application of the</li> </ul> |

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|                            |                                   |  |   | Protocol to its national nuclear power programme. Other <b>delegates</b> will be invited to propose cases in which the Protocol has been applied for the preparation of fact-sheets on the application of SEA, and the <b>representative of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)</b> will be invited to report on the preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice.  |
|                            |                                   | <b>6. Inputs to related international processes</b>  | Meetings of the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE Environmental treaties and the Committee of Environmental Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair's summary, 21 October 2015</li> <li>• Draft annotated provisional agenda for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (available in late March);</li> <li>• Draft mapping of the Environment subprogramme processes and activities that will support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair will report on the outcomes of a joint meeting of the Chairs of the bureaux of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), and on the outcome of the segment devoted on MEAs at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the CEP, (Geneva, 27 October 2015);</li> <li>• The secretariat will report on the meeting of the informal network of the chairs of the MEA implementation and compliance committees (Geneva, 29 June 2015); and</li> <li>• The preparations for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016) of relevance to the Convention and its Protocol;</li> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> will be invited to comment.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Wednesday, 13 April</b> | 10:00–13:00<br>and<br>15:00–18:00 | <b>7. Exchange of good practices</b><br><b>(a) Workshop on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint guidance and workshop on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects (ECE/CP.TEIA/WG.1/2016/4)</li> <li>• Draft programme of the joint workshop on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Chair will co-Chair</b> the seminar together with the Chair of the Working Group under the Industrial Accidents Convention.</li> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> will be invited to comment and supplement information on national approaches and good practice presented. They are also invited to comment a draft guidance document under preparation and provide guidance on its further</li> </ul>  |

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|                           |                            | <b>related safety aspects;</b>  | (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.10)<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.11)</li> </ul>  | development.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> may decide to take follow-up actions based on the seminar outcomes.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Thursday, 14 April</b> | 10.00–12.00                | <b>(b) Good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities;</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft good practice recommendations on the application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.12)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>consultant</b> to the secretariat will present outcomes of the survey for the preparation of good practice recommendations on the application of the Espoo Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (based on the responses received until 18 January).</li> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to comment the summary of the survey responses and agree on the subsequent development of the good practice recommendations.</li> </ul>  |
|                           | 12.00–12.30                | <b>(c) Other activities foreseen in the workplan</b>  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative of the <b>EIB</b> will be invited to report on its plans to organize a half-day seminar on the global application of the Convention and the Protocol focusing on non-ECE countries and international financial institutions, in November 2016. The Working Group will be invited to</li> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to provide its views and guidance for the preparation of the event.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Thursday, 14 April</b> | 12.30–13.00<br>15.00–16.00 | <b>7. Budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A draft financial report for the period to 30 October 2015.</li> <li>• Decision VI/4–II/4 on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.3, and annex II (Financial strategy)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>secretariat</b> will present a draft biannual financial report, which extends until October 2015 (data beyond November 2015 is available only in June 2016). The Working Group is invited to comment.</li> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> might report on additional contributions to the trust fund of the Convention.</li> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to assess the implementation of the decision on the budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance, as well as the financial strategy adopted by the Meetings of the Parties in 2014; and provide</li> </ul> |

| <i>Day</i>   | <i>Time</i> | <i>Agenda item</i>                                  | <i>Documents</i>  | <i>Actions</i>   |
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|  |             |   |   | <p>guidance to the Bureau for the preparation of a new draft decision on financial arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Working Group</b> is invited to comment information on the secretariat resources</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Thursday, 14 April, 4–6 p.m.</b><br/><b>and Friday 15 April 10 a.m.–1 p.m.</b></p> |             | <p><b>9. Preparations for MOP7 and MOP/MOP3</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal notes of the Bureau meeting (Geneva, 19–20 January 2016)</li> <li>Preparation for the 2017 sessions of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.14)</li> <li>Draft Minsk declaration (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.2)</li> <li>Information on the required nominations for officers for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.15)</li> <li>Mapping of the Convention and the Protocol activities that support countries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16)</li> <li>Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan for the period 2017–2020 (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/L.1)</li> <li></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The representative of <b>Belarus</b> and the secretariat will report on the initiation of practical arrangements for the MOP7 and MOP/MOP3</li> <li>The <b>Working Group</b> will be invited to consider the Bureau’s proposal to hold the sessions from 13–16 June 2017 (with a possible Bureau meeting on 12 June 2017), and to agree on the dates for the sessions.</li> <li>The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to comment a draft Minsk declaration presented by the Chair and agree on its further development.</li> <li>The <b>Working Group</b> will be invited to review and comment all the elements of the a draft workplan for the next intersessional period 2017–2020 document, and the accompanying draft decision, that have not already been addressed under the previous agenda items. <b>Delegations</b> will be invited to make further proposals on possible elements for the workplan. The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to ensure that for each activity in the workplan a lead country or organization and a source of funding is identified. It is also invited on agree which activities are to be waitlisted in the absence of funding. The Working Group is expected to decide on the further development of the draft workplan in advance of its next meeting</li> <li>The <b>Working Group</b> will comment a note by the secretariat on the preparatory work for the MOPs, with an indicative time schedule, including initial lists of documentation and draft MOP decisions; and provide guidance to the Bureau for</li> </ul> |

| <i>Day</i>                  | <i>Time</i>             | <i>Agenda item</i>   | <i>Documents</i> | <i>Actions</i>  |
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|                             |                         |  |                  | <p>the preparation of all draft decisions (except that on the review of the compliance) in advance of its next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> are invited to consider an initial proposal by the Bureau for the provisional programme of the MOPs (INF.14), and make further proposals for attracting high-level representatives to attend the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, and on enriching the programme of the sessions.</li> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> are invited to come forward with initial proposals for holding side events.</li> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> are invited to come forward with preliminary nominations for officers for the next intersessional period, that is, a Chair and three Vice-Chairs of the Working Group, a Chair and three members of the Bureau and four members of Implementation Committee (see inf doc 15)</li> <li>• <b>Delegations</b> may wish to provide preliminary proposals for hosting the eighth session of the MOP and the fourth session of the MOP/MOP, scheduled to be held in mid-2020.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Friday;<br/>15 April</b> | 15.00–<br>15.30<br>p.m. | <b>10. Other business</b>  | <i>(none)</i>    | Delegations wishing to raise other business should contact the Chair and the secretariat as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.  |
|                             | 15:30–<br>17:00         | <b>12. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the meeting</b> | <i>(none)</i>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Working Group</b> is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting.</li> </ul>   |