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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

Compliance Committee

Fifty-sixth meeting

Geneva, 28 February–3 March 2017

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 9 a.m.
on Tuesday, 28 February 2017*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Committee.
3. Matters arising from previous meetings.
4. Submissions by Parties concerning other Parties.

* As part of the accreditation procedures for delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to register online **before 14 February 2017** through the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=TsS6PN>. Participants requiring a personal invitation letter for visa purposes should click on the “visa required” option and register for the meeting as early as possible, taking into account the period required to obtain the visa. On their way to the meeting, delegates 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, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website, <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2682.



5. Submissions by Parties concerning their own compliance.
6. Referrals by the secretariat.
7. Requests from the Meeting of the Parties.
8. Requests from Parties for advice or assistance.
9. Communications from members of the public.
10. Matters arising from the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, including follow-up on specific cases of non-compliance.
11. Reporting requirements.
12. Programme of work and calendar of meetings.
13. Other business.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document, taking into account any points raised for consideration by observers.¹

2. Relevant developments since the previous meeting of the Committee

The Committee will be invited to share any information on relevant developments since its previous meeting that are not covered under other agenda items.

3. Matters arising from previous meetings

The Committee will be invited to discuss any other matters arising from its previous meetings that are not covered under other agenda items. In this context, the Committee is expected to discuss the draft revised guide to the Compliance Committee.

4. Submissions by Parties concerning other Parties

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any submission made by a Party concerning another Party's compliance with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention, as provided for under paragraph 15 of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.8). In this context, the Committee is expected to continue its deliberations on submission ACCC/S/2015/2 submitted by Lithuania concerning Belarus.

¹ Documentation for the meeting will be made available on a dedicated web page (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44788#/>).

5. Submissions by Parties concerning their own compliance

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any submission made by a Party concerning its own compliance with the obligations under the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 16. In this context, the Committee is expected to consider any new information received with regard to submission ACCC/S/2016/3 submitted by Albania.

6. Referrals by the secretariat

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is expected to consider any referrals made by the secretariat concerning possible non-compliance by individual Parties with their obligations under the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 17.

7. Requests from the Meeting of the Parties

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is mandated to monitor, assess and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the reporting requirements under article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 13 (c). In this context, the Committee is expected to consider any new information received with regard to the request ACCC/M/2014/1 from the Meeting of the Parties concerning the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.²

8. Requests from Parties for advice or assistance

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is mandated to provide advice and facilitate assistance to individual Parties regarding the implementation of the Convention, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, paragraphs 13, 36 and 37 (a). In this context, the Committee is expected to finalize and adopt its recommendations with regard to the request ACCC/A/2014/1 from Belarus, taking into account comments received from the Party concerned.³

9. Communications from members of the public

In accordance with the relevant procedures, the Committee is mandated to consider communications from the public, as provided for under decision I/7, annex, chapter VI. In this context, the Committee is expected:

(a) To confirm the adoption of its findings and recommendations with regard to communications ACCC/C/2012/71 (Czechia) and ACCC/C/2013/81 (Sweden), as set out in documents ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2017/3 and ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2017/4;

(b) To continue its deliberations on communications ACCC/C/2008/32 (European Union), ACCC/C/2013/89 (Slovakia), ACCC/C/2013/91 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), ACCC/C/2013/92 (Germany), ACCC/C/2013/93 (Norway), ACCC/C/2013/96 (European Union), ACCC/C/2013/98 (Lithuania),

² See ECE/MP.PP/2014/2, para. 27.

³ See ECE/MP.PP/2014/2, para. 53, and also the request for advice from Belarus in its statement to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/a1.html>.

ACCC/C/2014/99 (Spain), ACCC/C/2014/100 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2014/101 (European Union), ACCC/C/2014/102 (Belarus), ACCC/C/2014/104 (Netherlands), ACCC/C/2014/105 (Hungary), ACCC/C/2013/106 (Czechia), ACCC/C/2013/107 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2014/111 (Belgium), ACCC/C/2014/112 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2014/113 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2014/119 (Poland), ACCC/C/2014/120 (Slovakia), ACCC/C/2014/121 (European Union), ACCC/C/2014/123 (European Union) and ACCC/C/2014/124 (Netherlands) in closed session with a view to completing the preparation of its draft findings or to finalizing and adopting its findings, as applicable;

(c) To consider any new information received with regard to communications ACCC/C/2009/38 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2013/87 (Ukraine), ACCC/C/2013/90 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2014/109 (Hungary), ACCC/C/2014/118 (Ukraine), ACCC/C/2014/122 (Spain), ACCC/C/2015/126 (Poland), ACCC/C/2015/128 (European Union), ACCC/C/2015/129 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2015/130 (Italy), ACCC/C/2015/131 (United Kingdom), ACCC/C/2015/132 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2015/133 (Netherlands), ACCC/C/2015/134 (Belgium), ACCC/C/2015/135 (France), ACCC/C/2016/137 (Germany), ACCC/C/2016/138 (Armenia), ACCC/C/2016/139 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2016/140 (Romania), ACCC/C/2016/141 (Ireland), ACCC/C/2016/142 (United Kingdom) and ACCC/C/2016/143 (Czechia);

(d) To discuss any new communications received before 24 January 2017, in particular with respect to their admissibility and any issues that may need to be raised with the Party concerned or the communicant.

10. Matters arising from the decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, including follow-up on specific cases of non-compliance

In follow-up to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 30 June–1 July 2014), the Committee is expected to discuss any progress with regard to the implementation of decisions V/9 and V/9a–n of the Meeting of the Parties.

11. Reporting requirements

In the light of its mandate under decision I/7, annex, paragraph 35, the Committee is expected to prepare the report on its activities, along with recommendations, as it considers appropriate, for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session.

12. Programme of work and calendar of meetings

The Committee is expected to discuss and decide upon its programme of work and to identify dates for its future meetings.

13. Other business

At present the secretariat has no other business to suggest under this agenda item.