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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

**REPORT ON THE SECOND MEETING**

1. The second meeting of the Aarhus Convention's Compliance Committee, established by the Meeting of the Parties through decision I/7, took place in Geneva on 18-19 September 2003. All eight members of the Committee were present. A representative of the United States and a representative of the non-governmental organization EarthJustice participated as observers.
2. The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. Veit Koester, Chairman

**I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

3. The Meeting adopted its agenda as set out in document MP.PP/C.1/2003/3 with the addition of the issue of resources under the agenda item 11.

**II. RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS  
SINCE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE**

4. The secretariat informed the Committee of some relevant developments since its first meeting. Two more States had ratified the Convention, Norway on 2 May 2003 and Portugal on 9 June 2003. At an extraordinary meeting, the Parties had adopted the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which had been signed by 36 States and the European Community. The secretariat briefly outlined the main obligations in the Protocol and noted that the Protocol would have its own governing body and that a separate compliance mechanism for the Protocol was foreseen.

5. The secretariat had received four letters from NGOs and members of the public related to possible non-compliance issues. However, none of the letters concerned States that were Parties to the Convention and in most cases the relation to the Aarhus Convention had not been very clearly demonstrated. In each case, the secretariat had sent the same type of response indicating that the State concerned was not a Party to the Convention and that the Compliance Committee was in any case not in a position to consider communications from members of the public before 23 October 2003.

6. Some activities related to compliance and enforcement were being carried out by other international organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which had just published a draft manual on the UNEP Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which had set up a subcommittee on enforcement and compliance under its Committee on Environmental Law. A series of symposia for judges on the role of environmental law and its enforcement for sustainable development was being held in cooperation between the two organizations.

7. A Ukrainian NGO, Ecopravo-Lviv, had submitted a case to the Espoo Convention's Implementation Committee. The compliance mechanism for the Espoo Convention does not contain a right for members of the public, including NGOs, to make communications. However, as the Implementation Committee has a right to initiate a case on the base of information received, it would have to consider how to handle such communications at its next meeting, which was scheduled for 30-31 October 2003.

8. The Committee briefly discussed how its members should respond to requests for advice from NGOs or others considering submitting a communication to the Committee. It agreed that members should not be excluded from giving such advice but that the normal procedure would be for the Committee member to refer the person to the information available on the web site or to the secretariat. This would allow individual members to avoid offering specific advice which could, in some cases, lead to a conflict of interest for that member of the Committee. Finally, the Committee stressed that in any case it would be preferable if letters and communications were not sent to individual members of the Committee but to the secretariat.

### **III. MODUS OPERANDI**

9. At the request of the Chairman, the secretariat had prepared an informal document extracting the decisions of the Committee made at the first meeting with respect to its modus operandi. The document would supplement the rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties, which the Committee had agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis*. It should be considered as an evolving document to be supplemented or amended over time as necessary. The Committee agreed that such a document was useful for its work and requested the secretariat to make it available on the Convention's web site.

10. In this connection, it also agreed that discussion papers prepared by the secretariat for the meetings of the Committee should not be posted on the web site in advance of meetings but should be made available upon request and in the meeting room for observers.

#### **IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

11. At its first meeting, the Committee had discussed the detailed procedures for handling communications from members of the public on the basis of an informal discussion paper prepared by the secretariat. Following consultations with the members of the Committee, a revised version of this paper had been made available on the Convention's web site as guidance to the public on how to make communications. The document had been submitted for editing and translation.

12. In the course of the preparation of the document, a few issues had been identified as requiring further consideration by the Committee, to which it briefly returned. The Committee agreed that in a case where it decided to reverse or suspend its provisional decision on the admissibility of a communication on the basis of information provided by the Party concerned, it should give the communicant an opportunity to respond to this decision. It was agreed to insert some text to this effect in the first paragraph of chapter IX of the information paper.

13. The Committee briefly considered whether it was necessary or desirable to develop a glossary or provide some examples which would help to explain some legal terms used in the document, and more generally whether some more plain-language information materials on the mechanism would be useful and if so, whether it could be expected that the non-governmental organizations would undertake this task. It agreed to leave the issue aside for the time being.

14. The secretariat informed the Committee about the steps taken to develop a database of the communications received. It would be developed on the basis of a similar database developed for the human rights committees. The secretariat expected to have a prototype ready for demonstration at the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee commended the secretariat for the initiative and recommended that the database should also accommodate information with respect to submissions and referrals. Finally, the Committee considered that it could be useful to make the database accessible through the Internet in order to increase the transparency of its work, taking account of the need to block public access to any confidential information.

#### **V. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING SUBMISSIONS AND REFERRALS**

15. The Committee discussed the procedures for handling submissions by Parties and referrals by the secretariat on the basis of an informal paper prepared by the secretariat, addressing the role and tasks of the secretariat in the process. A number of procedures additional to those set out in the relevant paragraphs of decision I/7 were agreed upon, on the understanding that these would need to be kept under review in the light of experience.

16. With respect to submissions by Parties concerning other Parties provided for under paragraph 15 of the annex to decision I/7, the following procedures were agreed:

(a) The secretariat should inform the Committee of any submissions that it receives and circulate any such submissions to the Committee at the same time as they are forwarded to the Party concerned;

(b) As a general rule, the secretariat should forward a copy of the submission to the Party concerned within the two-week time limit even if it considers that the submission is not complete and essential information is lacking;

(c) When forwarding the submission, the secretariat should in a cover letter request the Party concerned to acknowledge receipt of the submission and remind it of its obligation under decision I/7 to reply within three months or such longer period as the circumstances of the particular case may require but in no case later than six months from the date of forwarding the submission. The cover letter should invite the Party concerned to indicate whether, due to the circumstances of the particular case, it envisages any difficulty in providing the reply within three months, and if so, to indicate when a reply would be sent. In the first instance, it would be for the Party concerned to determine whether more than three months is necessary to provide a reply;

(d) When a substantive reply is received by the secretariat, this should be forwarded without delay to the Committee;

(e) If no substantive reply is received from the Party concerned after three months or such longer period as may have been specified by the Party concerned, the secretariat should send a reminder to the Party concerned. The reminder should point out that following the expiry of the six-month period, the Committee will in any case be required to deal with the case on the basis of the information available to it, even in the absence of any response from the Party concerned. If necessary, a further and final reminder may also be sent to the Party concerned towards the end of the six-month period;

(f) If no response has been received within six months, the secretariat should inform the Committee accordingly, and notify the Party concerned that it has done so;

(g) In some cases, the Committee might be content to base its deliberations solely upon the information included in the submission and the reply; in others, it might decide to use its discretion to gather information from other sources in accordance with paragraph 25 of the annex to decision I/7;

(h) The Parties involved in a matter should be notified of any meeting of the Committee at which it will be discussed and of their right to be represented in such meetings in accordance with paragraph 32 of the annex to decision I/7. Where the Committee considers it important that representatives of the Parties involved in a matter participate in one of its meetings, it should explicitly invite them, stressing the importance of their participation. In such cases, the costs of such participation should, where necessary, be covered through the trust fund, in accordance with the general rules of eligibility for financial support and subject to the availability of funds.

17. With regard to submissions by a Party concerning its own compliance, provided for under paragraph 16 of the annex to decision I/7, the following procedures were agreed:

(a) The secretariat should inform the Committee of any such submissions that it receives and circulate them to the Committee without delay;

(b) As a general rule, the secretariat should circulate the submission to the Committee without delay even if it considers that the submission is not complete and essential information is lacking;

(c) In some cases, the Committee might be content to base its deliberations solely upon the information included in the submission; in others, it might decide to use its discretion to gather information from other sources in accordance with paragraph 25 of the annex to decision I/7;

(d) The Party which has made the submission should be notified of any meeting of the Committee at which the matter will be discussed and of its right to be represented at such meetings in accordance with paragraph 32 of the annex to decision I/7. Where the Committee considers it important that a representative of the Party which has made the submission participate in one of its meetings, it should explicitly invite it, stressing the importance of its representative's participation. In such cases, the costs of such participation should, where necessary, be covered through the trust fund, in accordance with the general rules of eligibility for financial support and subject to the availability of funds.

18. With regard to referrals by the secretariat provided for under paragraph 17 of the annex to decision I/7, the Committee recommended the following procedures:

(a) When in doubt about the situation in a country, the secretariat should be able to request information from the Party concerned as part of its general work or in preparing the synthesis report according to decision I/8 on reporting;

(b) The secretariat should always be able to consult the Committee before requesting information from a Party in the context of the compliance mechanism, if it considers this to be useful. In some cases, this may result in the Committee requesting the secretariat to seek the information from the Party;

(c) Whereas the secretariat might become aware of possible non-compliance in various ways other than through consideration of the reports (e.g. correspondence, conversations, newspapers, etc.), formal referrals by the secretariat should be based only upon information which is published or transmitted in written form;

(d) If letters from the public concerning possible non-compliance are addressed to the secretariat rather than to the Committee and it is unclear whether or not the letter is intended as a communication in the sense of paragraph 18 of the annex to decision I/7, the secretariat should clarify the matter with the correspondent, and, if it transpires that the letter is intended to be a communication in that sense, should deal with it in the normal manner for such communications. If it is immediately clear, or is subsequently made clear, that such a letter is not intended as a communication in that sense, the secretariat should inform the correspondent of the availability of the procedure for consideration of communications from the public, where he or she does not appear to be aware of it, and invite him or her to consider the possibility of using that procedure;

(e) If such correspondents indicate that they do not wish to submit a communication in the sense of paragraph 18, the secretariat would have various options available to it, including consulting the Committee, seeking corroborating information from other sources or taking no action

(e.g. on the grounds that its resources should be allocated to other matters having higher priority, that the information is insufficiently solid, that the alleged non compliance is not of sufficient gravity, etc.). The secretariat should use its discretion in choosing among these options, taking into account the nature of the particular case;

(f) The secretariat should be able, instead of making a referral in accordance with paragraph 17, to invite a Party to consider making a submission in accordance with paragraph 16;

(g) The secretariat should inform the Committee when it has requested information about possible non-compliance from a Party in the context of a referral under the compliance mechanism;

(h) Any Party which is the subject of a referral by the secretariat should be notified of any meeting of the Committee at which the matter will be discussed and of its right to be represented at such meetings in accordance with paragraph 32 of the annex to decision I/7. Where the Committee considers it important that a representative of the Party which is the subject of the referral participate in one of its meetings, it should explicitly invite it, stressing the importance of the participation of the representative. In such cases, the costs of such participation should, where necessary, be covered through the trust fund, in accordance with the general rules of eligibility for financial support and subject to the availability of funds.

19. The participation of representatives of any of the parties involved in a case should be governed by the modus operandi of the Committee, irrespective of whether the case arose through a submission, referral or communication.

20. The Committee discussed how information relating to submissions, referrals and communications required to be publicly available under paragraphs 26 to 31 of the annex to decision I/7 should in practice be made available. It was agreed that the essential information for each case should be available through the web site. The secretariat would need to make a very short summary of each case for this purpose. However, the Committee felt that it might be neither necessary nor practical to post all the related and corroborating information, some of which might not be sent to the secretariat in electronic form, on the website. Such information, if not required to be kept confidential in accordance with decision I/7, would in any case be available from the secretariat upon request. It was noted that decision I/7 did not require correspondence from members of the public to the secretariat not constituting a public communication in the sense of paragraph 18 (see para. 18 (d) and (e) above) to be made publicly available.

21. The Committee discussed the possibility of different cases coming before it addressing the same subject matter. For example, compliance with certain provisions of the Convention by a certain Party might simultaneously be the subject of one or more communications from the public and a submission by that Party about its own compliance problems. It was noted that while each case would need to be processed in accordance with the procedures (including time frames) applicable to that type of case, in certain instances it might be pragmatic to address the elements common to the different cases at the same time, e.g. by holding a hearing or conducting a mission to gather more information on those common elements. The Committee considered that if a Party made a submission concerning its own compliance, this would not automatically constitute grounds to rule a new communication addressing the same topic inadmissible, as different procedures were involved.

22. The Committee agreed to explore at a later stage the possibilities for developing and adopting a framework and an approach for light and standardized screening and rapid appraisal of cases. Such tools might be valuable in supporting pragmatic and cost-effective information gathering and on-the-spot appraisals, as well as systematic treatment of some core aspects in cases submitted to the Committee.

## VI. INFORMATION GATHERING

23. The Committee discussed the issue of information gathering on the basis of an informal paper prepared by the secretariat. It was agreed that the document provided a useful overview of the topic, and, following some amendments made by the Committee, that it should be made available on the web site and serve as a background paper to guide the Committee in its future work.

24. The main conclusions of the Committee on the question of information gathering were as follows:

(a) The Committee should adopt an approach to information gathering that is pragmatic and cost-effective, in order to ensure smooth operation of its activities. Easily accessible and low-cost means to obtain information should be availed of as far as possible, and more costly, time-consuming or complicated means pursued only if necessary. The secretariat should be able to pursue the more low-cost options without reference to the Committee. The more costly, high-profile methods, such as missions or hearings, should be pursued only following an explicit decision of the Committee. Among other things, a pragmatic approach would mean that the Committee should aim to avoid being overloaded by too much information, and only seek additional information if necessary for the consideration of a specific matter;

(b) This approach to information gathering also reflects the fact that the Committee should take into account all information available to it and not just the information brought to it by the parties in a specific case. If the Committee is not satisfied that it has a comprehensive, sufficiently balanced and accurate picture of the facts and the situation in a Party, it may be necessary to undertake further investigations and information gathering;

(c) With respect to on-the-spot information gathering, it is clear from paragraph 25 of the annex to decision I/7 that such missions can be carried out only with the consent of the Party concerned, which can be requested to provide such consent within a certain deadline;

(d) In addition, the Committee should be guided by the following principles when determining whether on-the-spot information gathering should be carried out:

- (i) The Committee has enough information to open a file and the alleged situation of non-compliance is and continues to be serious;
- (ii) Essential information is lacking or the case presents serious doubts or difficulties with respect to the appropriate measures to be suggested; and

- (iii) It is not possible to obtain the missing elements by other less costly means. As a general rule, the parties concerned should be invited to comment on the terms of reference for on-the-spot information gathering missions, although in some cases it might be necessary to keep certain elements in the terms confidential in accordance with decision I/7.

25. The Committee discussed how to handle 'general' information submitted to it outside the scope of specific communications, referrals and submissions, such as alternative reports, research articles and positions. One suggestion was to register all such information and make it publicly available in order to have full transparency with respect to the sources of information that the Committee was using in its considerations. However, the Committee felt that it might be premature to make a firm decision with respect to a matter that was not among its core functions. As the Committee was required to take all information made available to it into account, it provisionally agreed that, when concluding on a specific matter and making recommendations, it would indicate the sources of information that had been the basis for its considerations and such information should also be publicly available. The Committee also agreed to come back to the issue when it had a clearer idea of the amount and type of information that would be submitted to it in this way.

26. In this respect, it was mentioned that the Committee might in some cases find it useful to hold a discussion about the situation of non-compliance in a specific country within the framework of its mandate, because of issues coming to light through the reporting mechanism or because of the number or repetition of communications concerning one particular Party. Without prejudice as to whether such a general review of compliance in a particular country should be held, the Committee agreed that, if it was decided to do so, it should be announced widely and in good time to allow the Committee to benefit from a wide range of information sources.

## **VII. COOPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

27. The issue of cooperation with the NGO community, although linked with the question of information gathering, was seen as also covering other issues. It was agreed to discuss the matter on the basis of a section of the informal paper on information gathering addressing this issue and an informal paper prepared by Earth Justice.

28. The Committee agreed that special sessions with NGOs might prove useful. Specifically, it was agreed to have a standing agenda item on cooperation with NGOs at the beginning of each meeting during which NGOs present at the meeting would be invited to present specific points for discussion by the Committee. Time permitting, the Committee would then try to accommodate these suggestions during its meeting. The Committee also agreed that, as a general rule, the costs of participation of NGOs in its meetings should not be covered by the trust fund although this should not be excluded in particular cases.

29. In order to increase the visibility of the work of the Committee and give national NGOs and members of the public a better chance to have insight into its work, it could be considered in the future to hold its meetings in venues other than Geneva.

30. The Committee agreed that its members could accept invitations to present the compliance mechanism at appropriate events, such as conferences and workshops.
31. The Committee also agreed that draft findings, measures and recommendations could be sent to appropriate national NGOs for comment, if it was possible to identify such NGOs.
32. Finally, the Committee agreed that in the preparation of recommendations and measures, it would, as a general rule, consider whether the implementation of the recommendation would benefit from the involvement of intergovernmental organizations, NGOs or regional environmental organizations and include this in the recommendation.
33. In the light of these conclusions, the secretariat was requested to make the necessary changes to the informal papers and make them publicly available.

#### **VIII. OVERSEEING THE REPORTING REGIME**

34. According to paragraph 13 of the annex to decision I/7, the Committee was required to “monitor, assess and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the reporting requirements under article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention.” The Meeting of the Parties had adopted decision I/8 on the specific reporting requirements, according to which each Party was required to prepare a report to the Meeting of the Parties on its implementation of the Convention and to submit it to the secretariat at least 120 days before each ordinary meeting of the Parties.
35. The Committee considered that the role and tasks of the Committee with respect to the national reports raised a number of issues worth discussing. It therefore decided to hold a full discussion on the matter at its next meeting and requested the secretariat to prepare a short paper in advance of the meeting highlighting some of these issues and questions.
36. In any event, the Committee considered that the national reports would be crucial to its work. It therefore confirmed its suggestion that the Working Group of the Parties should make a recommendation to the Parties stressing the importance of timely and comprehensive national reports. It was agreed that a letter from the Committee to the Chairman of the Working Group of the Parties proposing text for such a draft recommendation should be sent in advance of the second meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, provisionally scheduled for May 2004. The secretariat was requested to prepare a draft letter for discussion and approval by the Committee at its next meeting.

#### **IX. REPORTING TO THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

37. At its first meeting, the Committee had provisionally agreed that its report to the Meeting of the Parties would consist of at least the following parts: activities by the Committee (time, venue and attendance of its meetings), general compliance issues, specific cases including any interim measures taken on the basis of paragraph 36 and, finally, any recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 37 (MP.PP/C.1/2003/2, para. 43).

38. For the sake of conciseness and readability and having in mind the formal constraints (16-page limit on formal documents of the United Nations), the Committee considered that the report could be divided into several sections, some of which could be appended, and possibly make references to the reports of the meeting of the Committee and other publicly available information.

39. With respect to particular 'cases' of non-compliance, it could be worth considering what detailed information should be included for which cases. For specific cases, there would probably be at least four possible scenarios/stages at which a case could be when the report to the Meeting of the Parties needed to be finalized:

(a) Ongoing (the case still under consideration by the Committee, for instance because the Committee was awaiting further information);

(b) Inadmissible (the case closed);

(c) Concluded by determining that the case did not raise a compliance problem for that particular country and that therefore no measures were recommended;

(d) Concluded by determining that the matter did raise a compliance problem, with or without interim measures and recommending specific measures for decision by the Meeting of the Parties

40. The Committee agreed that, as a general rule, the report should include detailed information about all the specific cases in category (d), including a description of the circumstances of the specific case and the considerations by the Committee as well as its suggested measures and recommendations. For the cases in categories (a) – (c), a description might not be necessary but the report could provide some summary information. In some cases, the Committee might have to consider to what extent names of States should be mentioned at all, i.e. for inadmissible communications. In some situations, the Committee might consider it important to provide more information if the case could have broader interest for instance by setting a precedent regarding the way the Committee interprets a specific provision or condition for admissibility. In any event, the Committee should aim to agree on how the case should be reflected in the report to the Meeting of the Parties when concluding its consideration of a specific case. It could also be useful to include a section on general observations in the report to the Meeting of the Parties.

41. The Committee discussed the structure and content of the report to the Meeting of the Parties, on the basis of a proposal by the secretariat, made some amendments to the proposal and agreed upon it provisionally. The structure is included in the annex to this report.

## **X. STRATEGY FOR PUBLICIZING THE MECHANISM**

42. The Committee concluded that for the time being, at this early stage, there was no further need to make further efforts to publicize the mechanism.

## **XI. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2004**

43. The Committee decided to hold its third meeting on 22-23 January 2004, followed by a fourth meeting on 27-28 May 2004 and a fifth on 23-24 September 2004. It was agreed that, for the two later meetings, the day before might need to be included, either in full or in part, depending on the amount of work facing the Committee at that stage. Committee members were asked to reserve those dates too for the time being.

## **XII. RESOURCES**

44. The Committee took note of the paper on the assessment and prioritization of extrabudgetary activities in the 2004-2005 work programme, which had been prepared by the secretariat for the Working Group of the Parties (MP.PP/WG.1/2003/7). The paper indicated that the contributions received under the voluntary scheme of financial arrangements had fallen short of projected requirements and set out revised projections for 2004 and 2005. The new proposed overall extrabudgetary staffing requirement for the compliance mechanism was 1 staff member with secretarial support, whereas the new proposed core requirement was for one part-time (40%) staff member with secretarial support.

45. The Committee agreed that the future workload of the secretariat and the consequent staffing needs of the secretariat with respect to the compliance mechanism was very difficult to predict with any accuracy, due in particular to uncertainty as to the number of communications which would be sent to the Committee following the deadline of 23 October 2003. However, there was a general concern that the secretariat should not find itself in a position where communications could simply not be processed effectively because of insufficient staffing levels. The Committee therefore requested the Chairman to write to the Chairman of the Working Group of the Parties on its behalf, indicating these concerns and requesting the Working Group of the Parties to mandate the secretariat to allocate additional resources to the servicing of the compliance mechanism, or to seek other sources of financing for the compliance mechanism, if this proved to be necessary due to the large volume of communications from the public.

## **XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF MEETING**

46. The Committee adopted the draft report prepared by the Chairperson and the secretariat on a provisional basis and requested the secretariat in cooperation with the Chairman to finalize it. Members of the Committee were invited to submit any suggestions for the agenda for the next meeting to the secretariat as soon as possible and preferably before the end of October 2003.

47. In closing the meeting, the Chairman expressed his thanks to the secretariat. On behalf of the Committee, he paid particular tribute to Ms. Sofie Flensburg, who would be leaving the secretariat at the end of the month, for her efficient and active support of the Committee's work during its first two meetings.

**Annex**

**FORMAT FOR THE REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

The structure of the report could be as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter would include information about the dates, venues and attendance of the meetings of the Committee, as well as a general reference to the reports of its meetings.

**II. ISSUES RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COMPLIANCE MECHANISM AND THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee could consider, in particular in the early stages of its activities, whether there are issues concerning which the views and/or a decision of the Meeting of the Parties could be useful or desirable, e.g. with respect to the procedures of the mechanism and the modus operandi of the Committee.

**III. SUBMISSIONS, REFERRALS AND COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING NON-COMPLIANCE BY PARTIES WITH THE CONVENTION**

This chapter would include, first, an introductory part in which the Committee would report on the number of submissions, referrals and communications that it received and considered during the period since the previous report.

Second, it would briefly describe the specific cases that the Committee had considered in substance and in which it had concluded that a Party had a problem of compliance with the Convention. Each case could be described with the following headings: Summary of the main issues, consideration, interim measures (where applicable) and recommendation. The recommendations could be formulated as draft decisions to the Meeting of the Parties, including preamble and operative paragraphs, possibly in an annex to the report. It could be considered to include all recommendations with respect to specific cases in one or more draft decisions (and 'general' recommendations, not concerning specific cases in another draft decision).

Eventually, this chapter of the report could also include information on the monitoring or follow-up by Parties to specific decisions made by the Meeting of the Parties at earlier meetings.

**IV. GENERAL COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

This chapter would include other compliance issues not related to a specific case of non-compliance. It would, for instance, include information on cases, setting precedents with respect to how the Committee is operating (e.g. examples of abuse of the right to submit a communication or specific examples of inadmissibility).

Furthermore, this chapter could include any considerations of general compliance issues that the Meeting of the Parties would have requested the Committee to look into under paragraph 13 (b) of the annex to decision I/7 (although it could be considered whether this should be included in a separate document).

**V. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

According to the annex to decision I/7, the Committee is required to “monitor, assess and facilitate the implementation of and compliance with the reporting requirements” that the Meeting of the Parties has adopted. The Committee would be expected to react to the number and the quality of the reports submitted in accordance with decision I/8 and make any appropriate recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties. (The issue of timing of the meetings of the Compliance Committee and the deadline for reporting would need to be taken into account.)

**VI. OTHER ISSUES****VII. FUTURE WORK**

Through this chapter of the report, the Committee could inform the Meeting of the Parties of its planned meetings and other activities.