



**Economic and Social
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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

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Addendum

DECISION III/1

INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 14 OF THE CONVENTION

adopted at the third meeting of the Parties
held from 11 to 13 June 2008 in Riga

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling decision II/1 on genetically modified organisms, through which an amendment to the Convention was adopted,

Noting that article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention, which establishes the conditions for entry into force of amendments to the Convention other than those to an annex, is open to different interpretations due to the ambiguity inherent in the expression “by at least three fourths of these Parties”,

Recalling article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which sets out general rules on the interpretation of treaties and which requires, in paragraph 3 (a), that any subsequent agreement between the parties to a treaty regarding its interpretation or the application of its provisions shall be taken into account,

Desiring to bring about an early entry into force of the amendment adopted through decision II/1, and, in principle, any future amendments to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters,

1. *Agrees* to interpret the expression “by at least three fourths of these Parties” as meaning at least three fourths of the Parties to the Convention that were Parties at the time of the adoption of the amendment;

2. *Decides* that any State that becomes a Party to the Convention after the date of adoption of this decision is also deemed to have agreed to the interpretation of article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention set out above.
