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POUR L'EUROPEЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ  
КОМИССИЯECONOMIC 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

**Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making**

**Sixth meeting**

Geneva, 10-11 February 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

**Opening and adoption of the agenda**

**Annotated provisional agenda for the sixth meeting<sup>1</sup>**

To be held in Salle VIII, Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 15.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 10 February 2016

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda.
2. Obstacles, challenges and good practices in relation to public participation in decision-making:
  - (a) Identification and notification of the public concerned;
  - (b) Early public participation;
  - (c) Decisions on proposed activities not listed in annex 1 of the Convention (article 6 paragraph 1 (b) of the Convention).
3. Implementation of the Maastricht Recommendations on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters.
4. Thematic focus: energy-related planning.
5. Other business.
6. Closing.

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<sup>1</sup> This document was not formally edited.

## II. Annotations

The Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making was established, and the mandate laid down, by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its resumed second extra-ordinary session (30 June 2010) (ECE/MP.PP/2010/2/Add.1, decision EMP.II/1).<sup>2</sup> It was further extended by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention through decision V/2 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1) adopted at its fifth session (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 30 June and 1 July 2014).<sup>3</sup> Decision V/2 sets out the issues to be addressed by the Task Force at paragraph 11.

The present meeting aims to discuss the main obstacles to effective public participation, exchange good practices to address those obstacles; share experiences with the implementation of the Maastricht Recommendations on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters (ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.2); and convey a thematic session on energy-related planning.

The Task Force continues its work based on the outputs delivered at the previous meetings. The background material for the meeting will include relevant information derived from 2014 national implementation reports,<sup>4</sup> the Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention,<sup>5</sup> the Aarhus Convention Implementation Guide,<sup>6</sup> the Maastricht recommendations on promoting effective public participation in decision-making in environmental matters,<sup>7</sup> and relevant Compliance Committee findings of a systemic nature.

### 1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

*Timing:*<sup>8</sup> *Wednesday, 10 February* *15.00 p.m. – 15.05 p.m.*

The Task Force will be invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.<sup>9</sup>

### 2. Obstacles, challenges and good practices in relation to public participation in decision-making

*Timing: Wednesday, 10 February* *15.05 p.m. – 18.00 p.m.*

*Thursday, 11 February* *10.00 a.m. -12.30 p.m.*

This session aims to identify the main obstacles and challenges to effective public participation in all types of decision-making within the scope of articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention at the national, provincial and local levels, including barriers to participation for non-governmental organizations, the general public and marginalized groups. The session also aims to exchange good practices to address the main obstacles in relation to public participation in decisions on proposed activities not listed in annex 1 of the Convention (article 6 paragraph 1 (b)). In addition, the session aims to identify further needs in relation to the subjects.

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<sup>2</sup> The text of the decision (ECE/MP.PP/2010/2/Add.1) is available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/emop2010.html#/>

<sup>3</sup> The text of the decision (ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.1) is available from [http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop5\\_docs.html](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop5_docs.html)

<sup>4</sup> Available at <http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/index.asp>

<sup>5</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2014/6; available from: [http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop5\\_docs.html#/](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop5_docs.html#/)

<sup>6</sup> 2nd edition, 2014; available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35869>

<sup>7</sup> ECE/MP.PP/2014/2/Add.2; available at [http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop5\\_docs.html#/](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/mop5_docs.html#/)

<sup>8</sup> Coffee breaks might be held during the meeting if time permits.

<sup>9</sup> All documents for the meeting will be available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/ppdm6>

**(a) Identification and notification of the public concerned**

Participants will be invited to identify the main obstacles to identification and notification of the public concerned and also to exchange good practices to address these.

**(b) Early public participation**

Participants will be invited to identify the main challenges in regard to early public participation when all options are open, and to exchange good practices to address these.

**(c) Decisions on proposed activities not listed in annex 1 of the Convention (article 6 paragraph 1 (b) of the Convention).**

Participants will be invited to identify the main challenges and obstacles in relation to public participation in decisions on proposed activities not listed in annex 1 of the Convention (article 6 paragraph 1 (b)), and also to exchange information about good practices to address these.

**3. Implementation of the Maastricht Recommendations**

*Timing: Thursday, 11 February*

*12.30 p.m. – 13.00 p.m.*

Participants will be invited to share good practices and experiences on the implementation of the Maastricht Recommendations and discuss existing challenges. A survey will be organised prior to the meeting in order to facilitate the discussion on this item.

**4. Thematic focus: energy-related planning**

*Timing: Thursday, 11 February*

*15.00 p.m. - 17.40. p.m.*

This session aims at discussing challenges and sharing experiences with regard to public participation in energy-related planning.

**5. Other business**

*Timing: Thursday, 11 February*

*17.40 p.m. – 17.45 p.m.*

Delegates wishing to propose issues under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

**6. Closing**

*Timing: Thursday, 11 February*

*17.45 p.m. – 18.00 p.m.*

The Chair will summarise key outcomes of the meeting and will close it.

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