

Decision IV/3
Inquiry procedure

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling Article 3, paragraph 7, and Appendix IV of the Convention, which provide for an inquiry procedure,

Taking note of the report of the first inquiry commission established under the Convention,

Having considered a review by the secretariat of the first inquiry procedure (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.1/2007/5),

Wishing to improve the effectiveness of the inquiry procedure in the light of the first inquiry procedure, without amending the Convention at this time,

1. *Decides* that the secretariat shall support the work of any inquiry commission established in accordance with the provisions of Appendix IV to the Convention, if requested by the Parties concerned;
2. *Also decides* that in item 13 of Appendix IV to the Convention, the date on which the inquiry commission was established shall be taken to mean the date on which all members of the inquiry commission have been designated in accordance with the Appendix;
3. *Proposes* that the Bureau allow the use of funds from the Convention's Trust Fund, up to a limit of US\$ 20,000, which might be used to initiate the work of an inquiry commission pending the deposit by the Parties concerned, in a fund established for this purpose, of sufficient funds to cover in full the anticipated expenses of the inquiry commission;
4. *Decides* that the amount indicated in paragraph 3 shall only be used for the purpose specified in paragraph 3 and in the understanding that this would create an obligation on the Parties concerned to replenish the Trust Fund without delay, in accordance with the agreed budget for the procedure and before the decision-making by the inquiry commission.