Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Compliance Committee

Twelfth meeting
Geneva, 19 and 20 October 2015
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Monday, 19 October 2015, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications.
3. Relevant developments since the eleventh meeting.
4. Implementation of and compliance with the reporting requirements.
5. Compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates.

* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the online registration procedure available on the meeting web page (http://www.unece.org/env/water/12th_compliance_committee_2015.html) as soon as possible, but not later than 5 October 2015. On their way to the meeting, participants 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, Avenue de la Paix 14 (see the map on the Economic Commission for Europe website, http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm). Please allow sufficient time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 6072.
6. Report from the Committee to the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session.
7. Consultation with Parties to facilitate implementation of the Protocol.
8. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

_Tentative timing: Monday, 19 October, 10–10.05 a.m._

1. The Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications

_Tentative timing: Monday, 19 October, 10.05–11 a.m._

2. In accordance with the relevant procedures set out in decision I/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3), the Committee is expected to consider:

(a) Any submission by Parties relating to specific issues of compliance (ibid., annex, paras. 13–14);
(b) Any referral by the joint secretariat relating to specific issues of compliance (ibid., annex, para. 15);
(c) Any communication from the public relating to specific issues of compliance (ibid., annex, paras. 16–22).

3. Specifically, the Committee is expected to consider a communication received from a member of public.

3. Relevant developments since the eleventh meeting

_Tentative timing: Monday, 19 October, 11–11.45 a.m._

4. The secretariat will inform the Committee of relevant developments since its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 24–25 March 2015). In particular, it will inform the Committee about the relevant outcomes of the eighth meeting of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting (Geneva, 2 July 2015) and the fourteenth meeting of the Bureau of the Protocol (Geneva, 3 July 2015).

5. The secretariat and the Committee members will report on the opportunities they had to present the compliance mechanism at various forums and events. In particular, the Chair will report on the outcomes of the third meeting of the informal network of the chairs of compliance and implementation bodies under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements (Geneva, 29 June 2015).
4. Implementation of and compliance with the reporting requirements

*Tentative timing: Monday, 19 October, 11.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m.*

6. At its tenth meeting (Geneva, 25 November 2014), the Committee considered, based on paragraph 11 (c) read in conjunction with paragraph 12 of the Compliance Procedure, that it had the competence not only to examine general issues of compliance but also to take appropriate action in case of possible non-compliance by a specific Party with its obligation to report under the Protocol.

7. Accordingly, the Committee decided to initiate a case regarding possible non-compliance with the obligation to report by Portugal, the only Party that failed to submit its national summary report within the second reporting exercise.

8. The Committee prepared draft findings at its eleventh meeting in March 2015. In accordance with paragraph 32 of the annex to decision I/2, the draft findings were then forwarded for comments to the Party concerned on 20 April 2015. The Party was invited to provide comments by 15 May 2015, but did not provide any comments by the deadline. The Committee proceeded to finalize its findings on 8 June 2015, with all Committee members giving their agreement by electronic mail by 15 July 2015. The Committee adopted its findings and agreed that they should be annexed to the report of its twelfth meeting. It requested the secretariat to send the findings to the Party concerned.

5. Compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates

*Tentative timing: Monday, 19 October, 12.15–1 p.m.*

9. At its tenth and eleventh meetings, the Committee noted that its recommendations addressing target setting in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol, as incorporated in decision III/1 of the Meeting of the Parties (see ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.2–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.2, paras. 5, 6 and 7 (b) and (c)), were somewhat misleading. It therefore decided to address the issue again in its recommendation to the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session (Bern, 14–16 November 2016). At its twelfth meeting the Committee will discuss possible revisions to the relevant paragraphs of the above-mentioned decision.

6. Report from the Committee to the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session

*Tentative timing: Monday, 19 October, 3–4.30 p.m.*

10. The Committee will discuss the preparation of the report on its activities to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session, pursuant to paragraph 33 of the annex to decision I/2 on the review of compliance.

11. In particular, the Committee will agree on the format and the content of the report on its activities to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties. The Committee is expected to agree on the outline and content of the report and to make a work-sharing arrangement for the drafting of the various sections, according to the expertise and scientific or legal backgrounds of Committee members.
7. Consultation with Parties to facilitate implementation of the Protocol

Tentative timing: Monday, 19 October, 4.30–6 p.m. and Tuesday, 20 October, 9.30 a.m.–4.30 p.m.

12. In accordance with the decision at its tenth meeting, the Committee invited Albania, Azerbaijan and Croatia to engage in the Consultation Process. Taking into account the request for assistance submitted to the secretariat by Bosnia and Herzegovina, that country was invited to join the process as an observer.

13. Albania and Azerbaijan accepted the invitation to engage in the Consultation Process and Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed to participate as an observer. No response was received from Croatia.

14. At its twelfth meeting, the Committee will hold the Consultation Process with Albania and Azerbaijan. Bosnia and Herzegovina will be invited to be present throughout the process as an observer. The detailed scope and programme of the Consultation Process will be developed in cooperation with the Parties concerned. The Committee will make its internal arrangements on Monday, 19 October. The Consultation Process with Parties will take place on Tuesday, 20 October.

15. The Parties and the Committee will discuss the next steps of the Consultation Process.

8. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 4.30–4.45 p.m.

16. The Committee will agree on issues for consideration at its next meetings. The Committee will also agree on the dates of its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings.

9. Other business

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 4.45–5 p.m.

17. Committee members wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

10. Adoption of the report

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 20 October, 5–5.15 p.m.

18. The Committee will agree on the modalities for the preparation and adoption of the report on its twelfth meeting.