



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Implementation Committee

Fifty-fourth session

Geneva, 4–7 October 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 4 October 2022*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4 a–c.
3. Submissions.
4. Committee initiatives.
5. Information gathering:
 - (a) Convention matters;
 - (b) Protocol matters.

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. Members of the Committee and observers are therefore requested to register online at least two weeks before the start of the meeting, i.e. by **20 September 2022**, indicating intended mode of participation, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000553/> In case of difficulty registering, please email the secretariat (eia.conv@un.org; maricar.delacruz@un.org).



6. Review of implementation.
7. Structure, functions and operating rules.
8. Other business.
9. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The present provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in agreement with the Implementation Committee Chair, in accordance with rule 9 of the Implementation Committee's operating rules.¹ The Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol will be invited to adopt the present agenda.

2. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4 a–c²

2. Discussions under agenda item 2 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 of the operating rules.

3. The Committee is expected to follow up on:

(a) Decision VIII/4a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(b) Decision VIII/4b on compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(c) Decision VIII/4c on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets. Further to its deliberations at its fifty-first session (Geneva (online), 4–7 October 2021), the Committee will hold informal consultations to discuss with Belarus and Lithuania progress made by them in implementing decision VIII/4c.³

3. Submissions

4. Discussions under agenda item 3 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 of the operating rules.

5. As agreed at its fifty-second session (Geneva, 29–31 March 2022), the Committee will continue its consideration of the submission received on 25 September 2019 from Montenegro of its concerns about compliance by Albania with its obligations under the Convention regarding the planned construction of a number of small hydropower plants on the Cijevna/Cem River (EIA/IC/S/7).⁴ In accordance with rules 11–14 of the Committee's

¹ Available at https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2014_Structure_and_functions/Implementation_Committee_structure_functions_procedures_rules.e_2014.pdf.

² ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2. Note: With regard to decisions VIII/4 d–e and most other compliance issues concerning Ukraine, the Committee agreed in its fifty-third session (Geneva, 10–13 May 2022) that, in the light of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, it would postpone their consideration to its subsequent sessions (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/4, para. 16 (a), advance edited version available at <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2022/06/reports/report-implementation-committee-its-fifty-third-session>).

³ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/6, para 17 (b).

⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/2, para. 3, advance edited version available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/ece_mp.eia_ic_2022_2_as_submitted_adv_edited_version.pdf.

operating rules, the Committee is expected to agree on its draft findings and recommendations with a view to transmitting them to the Parties concerned for comments and representations prior to finalizing them, preliminarily, at its fifty-fifth session (Geneva, 31 January–3 February 2023).

6. Following the hearing conducted at the Committee's fifty-second session on the submission received on 11 December 2020 from Montenegro of its concerns about compliance by Bosnia and Herzegovina with its obligations under the Convention regarding the construction of Buk Bijela and Foča hydropower plants on the Drina River,⁵ the Committee is expected to agree on its draft findings and recommendations with a view to transmitting them to the Parties concerned for comments and representations prior to finalizing them, preliminarily at its fifty-fifth session.

7. The Committee will be invited to note that, further to their finalization by the Implementation Committee using its electronic decision-making procedure, the secretariat has issued as an official document the findings and recommendations of the Implementation Committee on compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Convention with respect to several mining-related activities in Karamanica, Popovica, Podvirovi and the Grot mine.⁶

8. The Committee will also examine any submissions by Parties received since the Committee's previous session.

4. Committee initiatives

9. Discussions under agenda item 4 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 of the operating rules.

10. Following the outcome of its fifty-third session (Geneva, 10–13 May 2022),⁷ the Committee will continue to consider its initiative concerning the lifetime extension of units 5 and 6 of Kozloduy nuclear power plant in Bulgaria. The Committee is expected to agree on its draft findings and recommendations with a view to transmitting them to the Parties concerned for comments and representations prior to finalizing them at its fifty-fifth or fifty-sixth (Geneva, 2–5 May 2023) session.

11. The Committee will also continue to consider its initiative regarding the lifetime extension of unit 1 of Tihange nuclear power plant by Belgium. Further to the Committee's decision at its fifty-third session,⁸ Belgium and Germany are invited to participate in the session, on Wednesday, 5 October 2022, with a view to presenting information and opinions on the matter under consideration, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Committee's structure and functions. The Committee will then consider the matter in a closed session before proceeding to draft its findings and recommendations to be first considered at its fifty-fifth session in February 2023.

12. The Committee will also consider its initiative concerning the lifetime extension of units 1–4 of Dukovany nuclear power plant by Czechia, opened at its fifty-third session. Further to the Committee's decision at its fifty-third session,⁹ Austria, Czechia and Germany are invited to participate in the session, on Thursday, 6 October 2022, with a view to presenting information and opinions on the matter under consideration, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Committee's structure and functions. The Committee will then consider the matter in a closed session before proceeding to draft its findings and recommendations to be first considered at its fifty-fifth session in February 2023.

⁵ Ibid., paras. 8–9.

⁶ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/8.

⁷ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/4, paras. 8–9, advance edited version available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/364355>.

⁸ Ibid., paras. 10–13.

⁹ Ibid., paras. 18–26.

5. Information gathering

13. Discussions under agenda item 5 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 of the operating rules.

(a) Convention matters

14. The Committee will continue its consideration of information it has gathered concerning Belarus, regarding the law on State ecological expertise, strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment of Belarus. Further to the outcome of the Committee's fifty-second session,¹⁰ Belarus is invited to attend the session with a view to presenting to the Committee the steps taken by it to bring its environmental impact assessment legislation into compliance with the Convention and the Protocol.

15. The Committee will further continue considerations of information it has gathered concerning the lifetime extension of the following nuclear power plants: Borssele (Netherlands) and Almaraz (Spain).

(b) Protocol matters

16. The Committee will also continue to consider the information it has gathered concerning compliance with the provisions of the Protocol by Germany regarding the siting of a high-level radioactive waste storage facility.

6. Review of implementation

17. Time permitting, the Committee will continue its consideration of the specific compliance issues concerning:

(a) Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, the Republic of Moldova, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, identified through the sixth review of implementation of the Convention;¹¹

(b) Serbia, identified during the second review of implementation of the Protocol;¹²

(c) Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, identified through the third review of implementation of the Protocol.¹³

18. Time permitting, the Committee is also expected to continue its consideration of the specific issues regarding compliance by the European Union with the Protocol identified during the first review of implementation of the Protocol,¹⁴ as needed.

7. Structure, functions and operating rules

19. Further to paragraph 18 of decision VIII/4¹⁵ of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and paragraph 14 of decision IV/4¹⁶ of the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol, the Committee is expected to continue to review and to propose revisions to its structure and functions and its operating rules, with a view to enhancing coherence and reducing duplication between the two sets of rules and to increasing use of videoconferencing and other online and electronic communication tools as effective means for managing the Committee's workload.

¹⁰ ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2021/62, paras. 16–17.

¹¹ ECE/MP.EIA/2020/8.

¹² ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/9.

¹³ ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/8.

¹⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/3, para. 5.

¹⁵ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2.

¹⁶ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3.

8. Other business

20. Members of the Committee wishing to raise any other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session

21. The Committee is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting and to confirm the date and location of its next session before the Chair formally closes the session.
