

Background

In accordance with Article 34 of the Protocol, the COP-MOP at its first meeting held in February 2004 adopted procedures and mechanisms on compliance and established a Compliance Committee to promote compliance, to address cases of non-compliance. The procedures and mechanisms include provisions to provide advice or assistance to enable Parties to comply with the provisions of the Protocol. The Compliance Committee is composed of 15 members nominated by Parties and elected by the COP-MOP, on the basis of three members from each of the five regional groups of the United Nations.

Some facts

- The Compliance Committee can take a number of measures with a view to promoting compliance and addressing cases of non-compliance. These include: (i) providing advice or assistance to the Party concerned; (ii) making recommendations to the COP-MOP regarding the provision of financial and technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other capacity building measures; or (iii) requesting or assisting the Party concerned to develop a compliance action plan regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol within a timeframe to be agreed upon between the Committee and the Party
- To date, no individual case of non-compliance has been reported to the Compliance Committee.

What is being done?

The Committee has so far held four meetings. At its last meeting the Committee, reviewed general issues of compliance on the basis of the information made available by Parties through their first national reports.

What is expected at COP-MOP4?

The meeting will consider the report of the Compliance Committee synthesizing, for instance, the experiences of other multilateral environmental agreements regarding measures against cases of repeated non-compliance and highlighting the general issues of compliance by Parties and the lessons learnt, based on the information made available by Parties through their first national reports. COP-MOP is expected to consider the recommendations of the Committee and take a decision, as appropriate, including on the question of possible measures that may be taken in cases of repeated non-compliance.



For more Information:

COP-MOP 4 website: <http://www.cbd.int/mop4/>

Protocol website: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety>

Biosafety Clearing-House: <http://bch.cbd.int>

Frequently asked questions: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/faqs.asp>



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