

Submission of reports by the Contracting Parties

1. Article 26 (Reports) of the Barcelona Convention places the Contracting Parties under an obligation to send to the Secretariat reports on the legal, administrative or other measures taken by them for the implementation of the Convention or its Protocols.
2. At the sixth meeting held from 30 January to 1 February 2013, the Committee decided to ask the Secretariat to address a letter to the Contracting Parties reminding them of their obligation to submit their reports for the 2010-2011 Biennium before 30 March 2013. Two letters (in English and French) were sent by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties on 14 and 15 February 2013 respectively (Annex I). The Secretariat will review the responses received to these letters.

Annex I – Letters from the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties (14 & 15 February 2013).

3. At the same meeting, the Committee also asked the Chair to address a letter to the ministers of the five Contracting Parties (Albania, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro and Slovenia) who have not met their obligation to submit their reports for the 2008-2009 Biennium, requesting by 30 March 2013 a response detailing the reasons for non-submission of the reports. The Chair of the Committee sent a letter to these five Contracting Parties on 6 March 2013 (Annex II). Based on a fair appraisal of the responses received, the Committee shall draw its conclusions on the sending of these letters and if necessary, with the help of the Secretariat, make individualized recommendations for each of the Contracting Parties. To date, the Chair of the Committee has received no response to any of the letters.

Annex II – Letter from the Chair of the Compliance Committee sent to the five Contracting Parties who have not submitted their reports for the 2008-2009 Biennium (6 March 2013).

4. Since January 2013 the Contracting Parties have been able to submit their report online. A methodological guide has been created by the Information and Communication Regional Activity Centre for use by the Contracting Parties. This document sets out the different steps for using the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS). Henceforth, the BCRS constitutes the official means by which the Contracting Parties may submit their reports to the Secretariat. As of 1 June, five Contracting Parties had submitted their reports online and four in paper format.

Annex III – Table of Submission of Reports by Contracting Parties/2010-2011 Biennium.

5. At its sixth meeting, the Compliance Committee welcomed the proposal to assign to its members, on a voluntary basis, the task of evaluating the 2010-2011 Biennium reports submitted by the Contracting Parties. On this basis, several members agreed to evaluate the following reports which have been officially submitted to the Secretariat:
 - Presentation of the report from France by Mr Larbi Sbai
 - Presentation of the report from Morocco by Mr Michel Prieur
 - Presentation of the report from the European Union by Mr José Juste Ruiz
 - Presentation of the report from Greece by Ms Daniela Addis
 - Presentation of the report from Spain by Mr Nicos Georgiades
 - Presentation of the report from Bosnia and Herzegovina by Mr Tarzan Legovic
 - Presentation of the report from Italy by Ms Katerina Skouria
 - .Presentation of the report from Israel by Mr Louis Vella
6. The Committee will hear a presentation of each of these reports, followed by a debate.