



Activities under the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA

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Secretary to the Espoo Convention, UNECE

8th Seminar on Cooperation on the Espoo Convention in the Baltic Sea Region

Vilnius, 28-29 September 2015





Update

- Recent and upcoming meetings: Working Group on EIA and SEA, Implementation Committee, the Bureau; Informal network of UNECE MEAs;
- Workplan 2014-2017
 - Compliance with and implementation of the Convention
 - Subregional cooperation and capacity-building
 - Exchange of good practices
 - Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA
- Evaluation of secretariat activities (Oct-Dec 2015)
- Resources
- Status of ratification
- Bilateral & multilateral agreements





Working Group on EIA and SEA

- **Chair: Migle Masaityte (Lithuania);**
Vice-Chairs: Ms. Inga Podoroghin (Republic of Moldova); Mr. Igor Markelov (Ukraine); Ms. Aysel Babayeva (Azerbaijan)
- 4th meeting: 26-28 May 2015 (report available);
5th meeting: 11-15 April 2016 (documents by end Jan);
6th meeting: 7-10 November 2016
- Reviews:
 - Implementation of the workplan
 - Status of ratifications
 - Budget and financial arrangements
 - Secretariat staffing
 - Preparations for the next MOPs





UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE



Implementation Committee

Main members:

Chair: Mr. Zaharia (Romania);

Vice Chairs: 1st Ms. Hernando (Spain),
2nd Mr. Svedas (Lithuania):

Other members:

Ms. Grigoryan (Armenia);

Ms. Pocsai (Hungary);

Mr. Narkevitch (Belarus), with alternate on Protocol matters Mr.
Jendroska (Poland);

Mr. Prieur soon to be replaced (France), with alternate on Protocol
matters Ms. Shoshi (Albania);

Mr. Buchko (Ukraine), with alternate on Protocol matters Mr.
Heinma (Estonia)

Alternates:

Ms. Kharatova (Armenia); Ms. Laguta (Belarus); *tbc* (France); Mr.
Orosz (Hungary) ; Ms. Usevičiūtė (Lithuania); *tbc* (Romania); Ms.
Canamero (Spain); *tbc* (Ukraine)

Alternates on Protocol matters:

Ms. Twardowska (Poland); Ms. Antoni (Albania); Mr. Persidski
(Estonia)





Implementation Committee

33rd session, 17-19 March 15

- No new submissions since last MOPs
- **Follow up to VI/2** re Ukraine (Bystroe + Rivne); Armenia (Metsamor) – postponed; re Belarus (Ostravets) – deliberations ongoing and finalized/continued in December
- **Committee Initiative:** Hearing of UK (Hinkley Point C); New: Serbia (SEA, lignite PP)
- **Information gathering:** Netherlands (Borsele NPP) Bosnia Herzegovina and Ukraine - postponed
- **Reporting:** Letters to MFAs and MoEs of non-reporting Parties (Irl, UK, Lux, Portugal, B&H) – since then Irl reported. EU's reporting obligations under the Protocol under review. Finalization of new questionnaires for adoption by WG





Meetings – *forthcoming*

2015

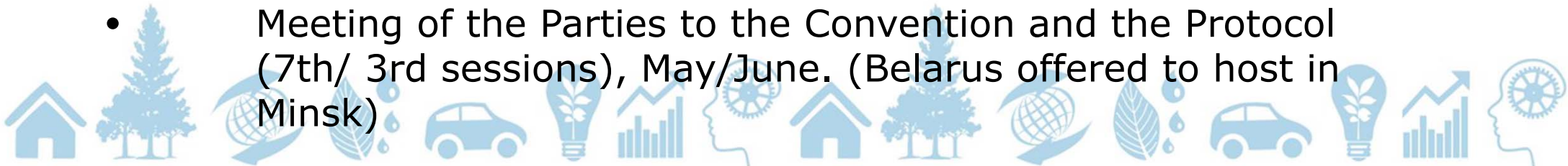
Implementation Committee, (34th), 8-10 Dec

2016

- **Bureau, 19-20 January**
- **Implementation Committee, (35th), 15-17 March**
- **Working Group on EIA and SEA, (5th), 11-15 April**
- **Implementation Committee (36th), 5-7 September**
- **Working Group (6th), 7-10 November**
- **Implementation Committee (37th), 12-14 December**

2017

- **Bureau, Jan/February**
- **Implementation Committee**
- **Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol (7th/ 3rd sessions), May/June. (Belarus offered to host in Minsk)**





Informal networks

- Informal network of Chairs of compliance/implementation bodies under UNECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); (3rd meeting, 29 June 2015)
- Informal network of UNECE MEAs Chairs (14 April 2015; 26 October 2015)
 - Review of Informal guidance "Towards enhanced cooperation of UNECE MEAs"
 - MEA contribution to EfE Ministerial Conference (Batumi, June 2016)
 - Tour de table on update on MEAs opening beyond UNECE region
 - MEAs presentation at the 21st CEP session
 - Election of new Chair





Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) , 21 session, 27-30 Oct 2016

Will consider role of UNECE MEAs in the post-2015 development agenda:

- (a) How can UNECE MEAs, through their experience in implementation (e.g., developing regulatory instruments, setting standards and establishing partnerships), facilitate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by countries?;
- (b) Can CEP contribute to that [facilitation] role?

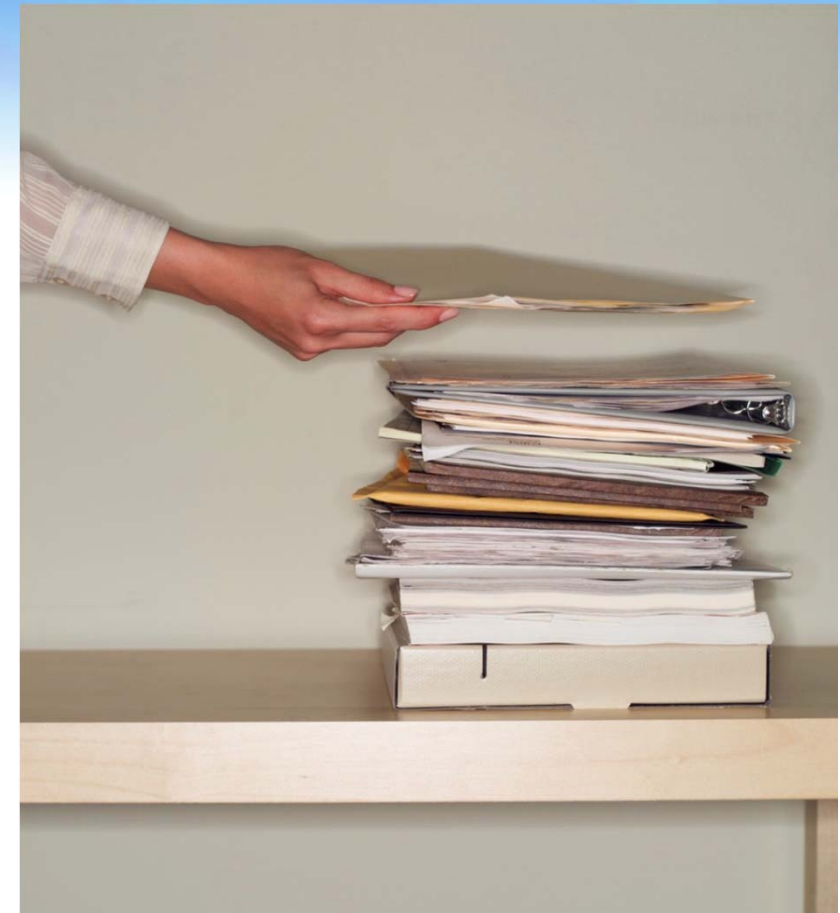
The Convention and the Protocol will be represented by the Working Group Chair, Ms. Migle Masaityte





Workplan 2014-17

- Compliance with & implementation of Convention
- Subregional cooperation & capacity-building
- Exchange of good practices
- Promoting ratification & application of SEA Protocol

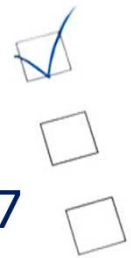




Compliance & implementation

5th Review of implementation of the Convention + 2nd Review of the Protocol (2013-15)

- **Modification of EIA and SEA questionnaires**
 - Considered by Implem. Committee in March 2015
 - Approved by Working Group in May 2015
- **Reporting by Parties on EIA and SEA**
 - **30 Oct. 2015 distribution to Parties for completion by 31 March 2016** (decision by WG)
 - Invitation and instructions for reporting by mid October
 - Possibility of also on-line reporting being examined
- **Draft Reviews**
 - Preparation by consultant + secretariat by Sept 2015
 - Consideration by IC and Working Group in Nov 2015
 - Consideration by Meetings of the Parties: May-June 2017
- **Publishing of the adopted Reviews**





Compliance and implementation (2)

Legislative assistance

- **Completed/about to be completed**
 - Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Georgia; Republic of Moldova (with EU/EaP Green funding)
 - Russian Federation (Swedish funding)
 - Kyrgyzstan (Swiss funding)
- **Initiated in 2016**
 - Kazakhstan (EU funding)





Compliance and implementation (3)

- **Preparation underway:**

- Guidance on the implementation of the Convention (drawing on opinions of the IC)
- Video to promote benefits of SEA Protocol

- **Intiated in 2016:**

- Development and update of Guidelines on EIA in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian countries





Subregional cooperation (1)

Baltic Sea area

- 7th seminar, 6-7 November 2014, Germany
- **8th seminar, 28-29 Sept 2015, Lithuania**
- **9th seminar, Autumn 2016, Latvia**

South-Eastern Europe

- Workshop on implementation of the Convention, Protocol and Bucharest Agreement, Romania (originally planned for 2015)

Mediterranean Sea

- **Workshop on application of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol in the Mediterranean region, Morocco, 14-15 April 2015.**





Subregional cooperation (2)

Eastern Europe
the Caucasus
Central Asia

- **Subregional coordination and experience-sharing events on SEA**
 - Study tour in the Czech Republic 1-4 Dec. 2014
 - **Subregional seminar and training event, Khaketi, Georgia, 2-6 November 2015**
 - Final seminar, 2016, (in Ukraine?)

**EAP-Green
funding**





Exchange of good practices

0.5 day seminars

Post-project analysis
(Belarus, with Ukraine,
secretariat: WG May 2015)



Global application of the Convention and the Protocol (EIB, WG April 2016)

1 day seminar

Land use planning (with due account to provisions of SEA Protocol, Industrial Accidents Convention, and agreed guidance by ECE Housing and Land Management Committee); (EIB, ECE secretariat; WG April 2016)





Joint guidance document on safety and land-use planning

- Joint activity under Industrial Accidents Convention and the SEA Protocol, approved by WG in May 2015
- Prepared by a consultant, financed by EIB
- Under supervision of small group of experts on land-use, Bureau, Working Group
- Draft to be discussed at a joint workshop to be held during the meeting of the Working Group, in April 2016





Good practice recommendations on application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities

- Developed by consultant in line with ToR agreed by WG in May 2015, under supervision of editorial group
- Contracting via UN procurement **by early Oct.**
- **By mid-November:** preparation of a survey
- **Mid-November:** disseminate to Parties and other stakeholders for responses by **mid-December 2015;**
- **By mid-January 2016:** draft report and possible recommendations for presentation to the Bureau
- **February:** Address comments, discuss with editorial group
- **By mid-March 2016:** Prepare revised draft report and recommendations, and present to Working Group (April 2016)
- **May-August 2016:** Address comments, further revise draft report and elaborate recommendations; submit to WG in Nov.
- **November 2016-February 2017:** Address comments, revise, consult. Final draft for consideration by MOP (June 2017)





Promoting ratification & application of SEA Protocol (1)

National training workshops on SEA

- Armenia (2013, 2015, 2016)
- Azerbaijan (2015, 2016)
- Belarus (2015)
- Georgia (2015)
- Republic of Moldova (2014)
- Ukraine (2013, 2015–2016)

Pilot SEA projects

- Republic of Moldova (2 pilots; in urban development and green economy sectors) 2014–2016

2015–2016

- Armenia (waste management sector)
- Azerbaijan (renewable energy sector)
- Georgia (waste management sector)





Promoting ratification & application of SEA Protocol (2)

- Preparation of case study fact sheets:
 - By Poland: on the application of the Protocol to Polish Nuclear Power Programme (Autumn 2015)
 - Others?





External evaluation of secretariat activities

- Mandatory evaluation for all UNECE activities
- Aim: review relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of UNECE activities under the Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA.
- Results used to ensure relevance of policy and workplan activities for 2017–2020, and more effective procedures for the delivery of future activities, where necessary.
- October 2015: Desk review of documents
- *Mid October 2015*: Preparation questionnaire survey (Consultant, with the support of the secretariat), distribution to stakeholders)
- November 2015: Data analysis (consultant)
- Mid November 2015: Interviews of selected stakeholders
- 10 Dec 2015: Submission of draft report to secretariat for review of factual errors
- 21 Dec 2015: Review of secretariat comments and submission of the final report to UNECE (consultant)





Staff resources

- Secretary Tea Aulavuo: (back 1 June 2015)
- Extrabudgetary staff member: Aphrodite Smagadi: on maternity leave until early November 2015
- Project (EaP-Green) funded: Project manager/capacity building officer, Elena Santer (until end 2016)
- Admin.support, Anelia Rambosson, 50% as of June 15
- Extrabudget. admin support at 50%:Gaelle Rigo (until end Oct); Cristian Olarean (Nov-Feb)
- Junior professional officer sponsored by a member State would be badly needed





Status of ratification

State	Espoo (45)	1 st (2001) amendment (26)	2 nd (2004) amendment (25)	SEA Protocol (26)
Belarus	Party	Party		
Denmark	Party			Party
Estonia	Party	Party	Party	Party
Finland	Party	Party	Party	Party
Germany	Party	Party	Party	Party
Latvia	Party			Signatory
Lithuania	Party	Party	Party	Party
Norway	Party	Party	Party	Party
Poland	Party	Party	Party	Party
Russian Federation	Signatory			
Sweden	Party	Party	Party	Party
European Union	Party	Party	Party	Party



The condition of the first amendment

New article 17, paragraph 3 (since 26 Aug 2014):

3. Any other State, not referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, that is a Member of the United Nations may accede to the Convention upon approval by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties shall not consider or approve any request for accession by such a State **until this paragraph has entered into force for all the States and organizations that were Parties to the Convention on 27 February 2001.**





Which Parties need to ratify the first amendment for it to have effect

Armenia	Denmark	Republic of Moldova
Azerbaijan	Greece	FYROM
Belgium	Italy	Ukraine
Canada	Latvia	United Kingdom
Cyprus		





Bilateral & multilateral agreements – outdated info

Adopted

- Estonia and Latvia (1997)
- Estonia and Finland (2002)
- Germany and Poland (2006; in force 2007)
- Lithuania and Poland (2004)

Forthcoming

- **Belarus and Lithuania?**
- **Belarus and Poland**
- **Denmark and Germany?**
- **Latvia and Lithuania?**
- **Others?**

Elsewhere in region

- Multilateral agreement for SE Europe in force
- **Caspian Sea: Protocol on EIA in a transboundary context**
- Recommendations for Black Sea

