



Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Update from the secretariat

Seventh Seminar on Cooperation on the EIA Convention in the Baltic Sea Region
6 – 7 November 2014, Berlin





Content

- Changes in the secretariat
- Ratifications
- Scheduled meetings and The Implementation Committee work (September and December 2014)
- Informal network of the UNECE MEAs Chairs (27 Oct 2014) and the CEP (28-31 October 2014)
- Activities – progress under the EaP Green and other capacity building





Changes in the secretariat

- According to the Convention and the Protocol, the **Executive Secretary of the ECE** is formally the Secretary. His authority is then delegated to other officers.



- Ms. Aulavuo is on leave until 1 June 2015. Until then, Ms. Smagadi discharges her tasks. Ms. Santer continues as the Capacity Building Officer and Manager of the EaP Green programme activities

- Ms. Brunne is joining the secretariat as of 1 December for a period of six months to support the work under the Implementation Committee and capacity building





Ratifications / accessions

as of 6 November 2014

Convention: 45 Parties (including the EU) (*last accession was by Malta in 2010*)

First amendment **entered into force** on **26 August 2014**

Second amendment (eight ratifications missing)

Protocol: 26 Parties (including the EU) (*last ratification was by FYROM in 2013*)





The condition of the first amendment

New article 17, paragraph 3:

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 States need to ratify the first amendment

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





Meetings *from MOP to date*

Implementation Committee

Thirty-first session (2-4 September 2014)

- New members, review of procedures and MOP decisions
- Election of the Chair, Mr. Zaharia (Romania) (no Vice-Chairs)
- No new submissions
- One Committee Initiative (UK, Hinkley Point C)
 - Information Gathering: Ukraine (2), Serbia, Netherlands. Bosnia Herzegovina (2) most recent cases to be considered at IC32.
- Reporting: letters to the Parties that still have to report. The Committee is also examining the reporting obligations of the EU under the Protocol. Steps agreed for the modification of the questionnaires





Meetings – *forthcoming*

2014

Implementation Committee, 9-11 December

2015

Bureau (5-6 February)

Implementation Committee (17-19 March)

Working Group on EIA and SEA (26-28 May)





Informal network of the MEAs Chairs

- 5th meeting of the representatives of the gov bodies of the ECE MEAs and the CEP (Geneva, 27 October 2014)
- The Convention and the Protocol were represented by the Chair of the Working Group on EIA and SEA, Ms. Migle Masaityte
- In brief, the following issues were discussed:
 - **Synergies** among MEAs and joint activities
 - MEAs involvement at the next EfE Ministerial (2017)
 - Promotion of MEAs to other regions and implementation in countries with economies in transition
 - SD and Green economy
 - Workload, **financial arrangements** and sustainability of the secretariats

Next meeting in April/May 2015 (focus on financial)





CEP-20 (28-31 Oct 2014)

- MEAs segment on 28 October: presentation by the secretariat on recent developments, reporting and future plans

- **Highlights**

The CEP, inter alia:

- Welcomed **the progress in promoting** the benefits of the MEAs beyond the region
- Recognized the importance of the **allocation of sufficient resources** for the promotion of activities, and acknowledged the need to explore opportunities for mobilizing resources (e.g. through national funding, bilateral cooperation or other, as appropriate)
- Recognized **national implementation reporting** as a valuable tool for monitoring implementation of the MEAs and welcomed the fulfilment of the reporting obligations by the majority of Parties





Capacity building

Greening Economies in Eastern Neighbourhood Programme (EaP GREEN)

- A large EU funded sub-regional programme for the period **2013-2016**
- Implemented by **UNECE** (Espoo), OECD, UNEP, and UNIDO
- Benefiting countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, in their transition to green economy

UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/env/sea/eapgreen.html>

OECD website: <http://www.oecd.org/env/outreach/eapgreen.htm>

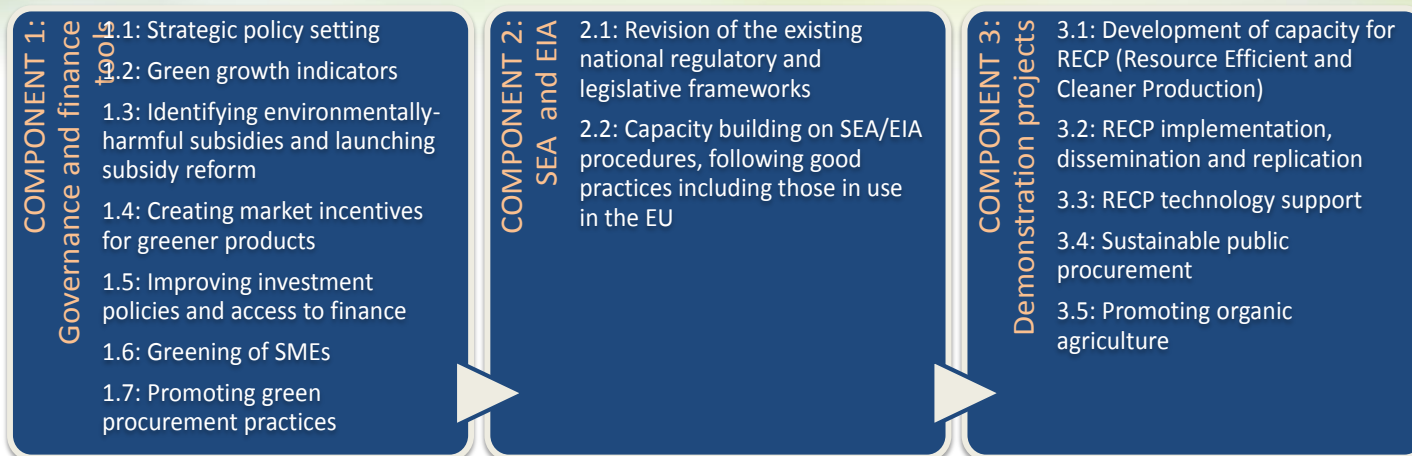




Capacity building

Overall objective: To assist the EaP countries to decouple **economic** growth from **environmental** degradation and resource depletion.

Three pillars components



UNECE Component 2 aims to promote the use of SEA and EIA as essential planning tools to achieve the overall objective



Capacity building

Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework

- Legislative review of SEA and, as appropriate, of EIA
- Legal drafting for SEA legislation
- Sub-regional overview

Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures

- National and sub-national level training on SEA
- Development of national guidance documents
- Coordination and experience-sharing events
- Pilot SEAs and EIAs

Strengthening administrative capacities

- Legislative reviews and development of recommendations
- Policy dialogue
- Institutional reviews and recommendations





Capacity building

Legislative review and technical assistance provided in tandem with practical application (pilot SEAs) and training/ awareness raising events

Armenia: assistance in drafting legislation on SEA and amending EIA

Azerbaijan: assistance in drafting legislation on EIA and SEA / pilot application of SEA

Georgia: assistance in drafting legislation on EIA and SEA

Republic of Moldova: assistance in drafting legislation on EIA and SEA /pilot application of SEA

Ukraine and Belarus: activities to kick off late 2014-2015





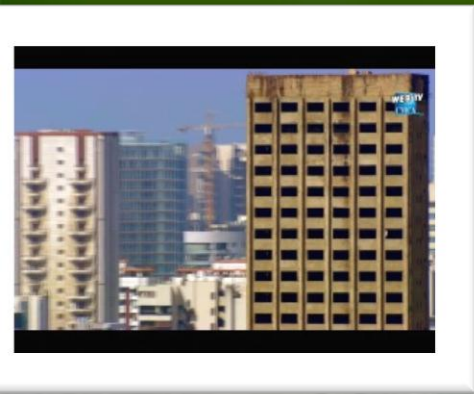
Capacity building

Study tour Czech Republic (1 - 5 December 2014)

- Application of SEA at the national level in the field of urban planning, waste management, agriculture and energy sector”
- Participants from Ministries on environment, urban planning, economy, as well as representatives of civil society from the six EaP Green countries as well as from Russian Federation

Similar activities designed after the EaP Green technical assistance format on EIA and SEA planned for **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan**, as well as the **Russian Federation**





Thank you!

