

**Eight Seminar on Cooperation on the Espoo (EIA) Convention in the Baltic Sea Region
28-29 September 2015, Vilnius**

**BEST WESTERN Hotel Vilnius
Konstitucijos avenue.14, Vilnius
Glass Hall A**

Agenda

Monday, 28th September		
09.00 – 09.30	1.	Arrival and registration
09.30 – 09.45	2.	Welcome and Practicalities
09.45 – 10.30	3.	Work on EIA Convention and SEA-Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction, information and updates on the work by the Secretariat of the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA (Tea Aulavuo, Secretary to the Espoo Convention) • Planned ratifications – relevant countries
10.30 – 11.15	4.	Case studies on transboundary EIAs and SEAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Reports – Tour de Table
11.15 – 11.30		Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00		Continuing: Case studies on transboundary EIAs and SEAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rail Baltica project in the Baltic States–state of play: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania • The role of Espoo-consultations in a communicative world – A Marine Spatial Planning example from Sweden and the Baltic Sea Region (Jan Schmidtbauer Crona, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management)
13.00 – 14.00		Lunch BEST WESTERN Hotel Vilnius
14.00 – 14.45	5.	Assessment and reduction of transboundary impacts on transboundary watercourses and international lakes in the context of the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on SEA and the Helsinki Convention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The international dimension of the EU water policy. Links between the Espoo Convention and the UN Watercourses Convention (Milena Novakova, DG Environment)
14.45 –16.15		Continuing: Assessment and reduction of transboundary impacts on transboundary watercourses and international lakes in the context of the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on SEA and the Helsinki Convention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships between Espoo and Helsinki Conventions - Special focus on Finland-Russia boundary (Seppo Rekolainen Director, Freshwater Centre Finnish Environment Institute) • Transboundary water co-operation between Lithuania and neighbouring countries according to Helsinki Convention and bilateral agreements

		(Vytautas Kalpokas, Chief Desk Officer, Water Policy Division, MoE of Lithuania)
16.15 – 16.30		Coffee Break
16.30 – 17.00		Continuing: Assessment and reduction of transboundary impacts on transboundary watercourses and international lakes in the context of the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on SEA and the Helsinki Convention
19.00 – 21.00		Dinner BEST WESTERN Hotel Vilnius
		Tuesday, 29th September
09.30 – 10.15	6.	<p>Effective public participation in SEA/EIA in the context of the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on SEA and the Aarhus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public participation in the context of transboundary EIA/SEA: main concepts and the case law of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (Heghine Hakhverdyan, Member of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee)
10.15 – 11.00		<p>Continuing: Effective public participation in SEA/EIA in the context of the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on SEA and the Aarhus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public participation in the light of Espoo and Aarhus conventions: the practice of Lithuanian courts (Eglė Paužuolienė, Chief Desk Officer, Law Application Division, MoE of Lithuania) (TBC)
11.00 – 11.15		Coffee Break
11.15 – 12.00		<p>Continuing: Case studies on transboundary EIAs and SEAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIA of the Balticconnector offshore gas pipeline connecting Finland and Estonia (Ms. Seija Rantakallio, Ministerial adviser, MoE of Finland)
12.00 – 13.15	7.	<p>AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (transposition – state of play): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ coordinated and/or joint procedures with assessment under Birds and/or Habitats Directives (Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC) (Džiugas Anuškevičius, Chief Desk Officer, Protected Areas Strategy Division, MoE of Lithuania); ➤ Tour de Table on MS experience AOB
13.15 – 13.30	8.	Conclusions and Closing
13.30 – 14.30		Lunch BEST WESTERN Hotel Vilnius
15:00 – 16:00		Guided tour at the National Gallery of Art