

Introduction to the Espoo- Convention and its bodies

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UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

One Convention and one Protocol

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Espoo, Finland, 25 February 1991

PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TO THE CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

- Adopted by an [Extraordinary meeting of the Parties](#) to the Espoo Convention, held on 21 May 2003

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Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Environmental threats do not respect national borders. Governments have realized that to avert this danger they must notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that might have adverse environmental impact across borders. The Espoo Convention is a key step to bringing together all stakeholders to prevent environmental damage before it occurs. The Convention entered into force in 1997.

It was complemented by the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003)

[Read more](#)



Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003)

The SEA Protocol augments the Espoo Convention by ensuring that individual Parties integrate environmental assessment into their plans and programmes at the earliest stages – so helping to lay the groundwork for sustainable development. The Protocol also provides for extensive public participation in the governmental decision-making process. The Protocol entered into force on 11 July 2010. [More »](#)



The Espoo Convention - Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

- Obligations of Parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning.
- General obligation of States to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries
- Appendix I List of activities
- Appendix II Minimum requirements on the EIA
- Appendix III Criteria activities not listed

The Kyiv (SEA) Protocol

- requires its Parties to evaluate the environmental consequences of their official draft plans and programmes
- Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is undertaken much earlier in the decision-making process than project environmental impact assessment (EIA), and it is therefore seen as a key tool for sustainable development.
- The Protocol also provides for extensive public participation in government decision-making in numerous development sectors.
- Annex I and II - List of projects
- Annex III - Criteria
- Annex IV and V - Information

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Parties

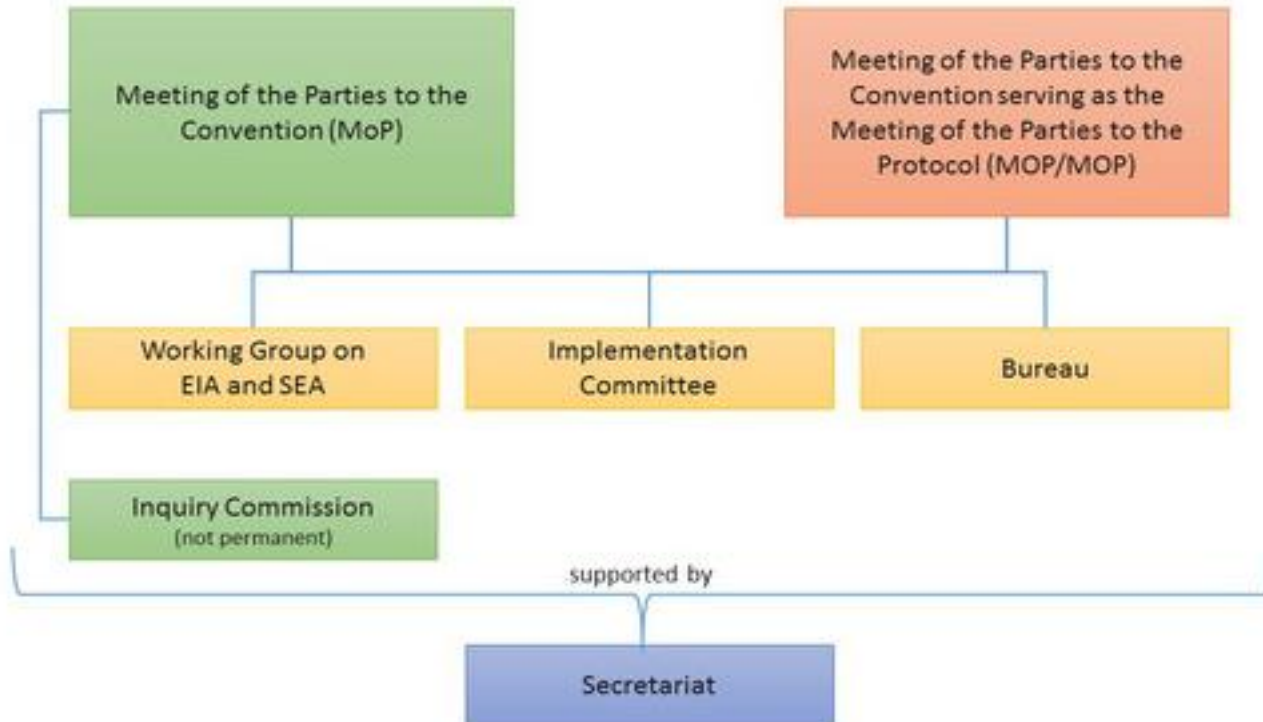
Signatories

Other UNECE member States



www.unece.org/bodies.html

Overview/Organigram of bodies



Meeting of the Parties to the Convention



Article 11 of the Convention specifies:

1. The Parties shall meet, so far as possible, in connection with the annual sessions of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems. The first meeting of the Parties shall be convened not later than one year after the date of the entry into force of this Convention. Thereafter, meetings of the Parties shall be held at such

other times as may be deemed necessary by a meeting of the Parties, or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of the request being communicated to them by the secretariat, it is supported by at least one third of the Parties.

2. The Parties shall keep under continuous review the implementation of this Convention, and, with this purpose in mind, shall:

(a) Review the policies and methodological approaches to environmental impact assessment by

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Working Group on EIA and SEA

▸ Implementation Committee

Procedures

▸ Membership

Sessions

Compliance issues

Members Area

▸ Bureau

Inquiry Commission

▸ Status of ratification

Membership

Current membership, including alternates for Protocol matters (from 16 June 2017)

Ms. Nadezhda Zdanevich (Belarus), with alternate on Protocol matters Mr. Libor Dvorak (Czechia)

Ms. Zsuzsanna Pocsai (Hungary)

Mr. Romas Švedas (Lithuania)

Mr. Vladimir Buchko (Ukraine)

Mr. Kaupo Heinma (Estonia)

Ms. Maria do Carmo Figueira (Portugal)

Mr. Anders Bengtsson (Sweden)

Ms. Aysel Babaeva (Azerbaijan), with alternate on Protocol matters Mr. Lasse Tallskog (Finland)

In addition to the permanent members, the elected Parties appointed an alternate member for the same term of office.

Mr Rainer Persidski (Estonia)

Mr. Szabolcs Péter Orosz (Hungary)

Ms. Jūratė Usevičiūtė (Lithuania)

Ms. Águeda Silva (Portugal)

Ms. Christina Olson Lundh (Sweden)

Ms. Maryna Shymkus (Ukraine)

Alternates on Protocol matters:

Ms. Eliska Dvorska (Czechia)

Ms. Charlotta von Troil (Finland)