

# **Draft programme for the third informal meeting for the development of a draft long-term strategy and an action plan for the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Polish General Directorate for Environmental Protection, (Room nr. 455, IV floor; Wawelska street 52/54, 00-922 Warsaw)<sup>1</sup>**

**Thursday, 23 January, 1 p.m. - Friday, 24 January 2020, 4 p.m.**

Prepared by the Netherlands and Poland

## **I. Introduction**

1. The informal meeting will bring together representatives of Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA). It will provide an informal setting for the further development of a draft long-term strategy and an action plan for the Convention and the Protocol that was mandated by the Meetings of the Parties to the two Treaties in 2017. The meeting will be co-chaired by representatives of the Netherlands and Poland.
2. Specifically, the informal meeting aims at revising and finalizing the elements of the strategy and the action plan that had been developed for consideration of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 26-28 November 2019) (ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2019/INF.7). At that meeting, the Working Group found the elements in the informal document to be comprehensive and agreed that all the issues that it covered were important. However, due to the resource constraints, it decided on the need to prioritize and limit the scope of the strategic goals and priority activities. Consequently, the informal meeting will assist the Netherlands and Poland to respond to the request of the Working Group to develop a more focused and feasible draft long-term strategy and action plan reflecting Parties' and secretariat's resources and considering the comments made.
3. As requested by the Working Group, a revised draft strategy and an action plan should be prepared by mid-February 2020 for the consideration of the Bureau in advance of its next meeting (Geneva, 25 and 26 February 2020). That will allow the Bureau to further revise the draft and to submit it as an official document for the next, ninth, meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 9-11 June 2020). After its consideration by the Working Group, the draft will be forwarded to the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol at their next sessions (Lithuania, 8-11 December 2020).

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<sup>1</sup> Please register by Friday, 10 January 2020 by e-mailing [paulina.szadkowska@gdos.gov.pl](mailto:paulina.szadkowska@gdos.gov.pl) with a copy to [dorota.szumanska@gdos.gov.pl](mailto:dorota.szumanska@gdos.gov.pl)

## II. Provisional programme

### Thursday, 23 January

- 1-2 p.m.** Lunch (offered by the Polish General Directorate for Environmental Protection)
- 2- 3 p.m.** **Informal welcome and introduction**
- 3-6 p.m.** **General discussion on the further development of the elements of the draft strategy and the action plan: review of the feedback from the Working Group on EIA and SEA; main structure, expected impact and contents of the strategy and the action plan**
- 7 p.m.** Dinner (at participants' own costs)

### Friday, 24 January

- 9 – 12 am:** **Discussion on priority objectives and actions under the main strategic goals (Possibly in parallel groups)**
- 1. Full and effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol by their Parties**
  - 2. Wider implementation of the Convention and the Protocol within and beyond the UNECE region**
  - 3. Increased impact and adaptation to new national, regional and global challenges and goals**
- 12–1.30 pm:** Lunch (offered by the Polish General Directorate for Environmental Protection)
- 1.30–3 pm:** **Preparing conclusions (per parallel group)**
- 3–4 pm:** **Concluding session on the output to be submitted to the Bureau**
- 4 pm:** **Closure of the informal meeting**
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