

# Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Awareness-raising workshop  
Ljubljana, 9 June 2010

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[www.unece.org/env/eia](http://www.unece.org/env/eia)



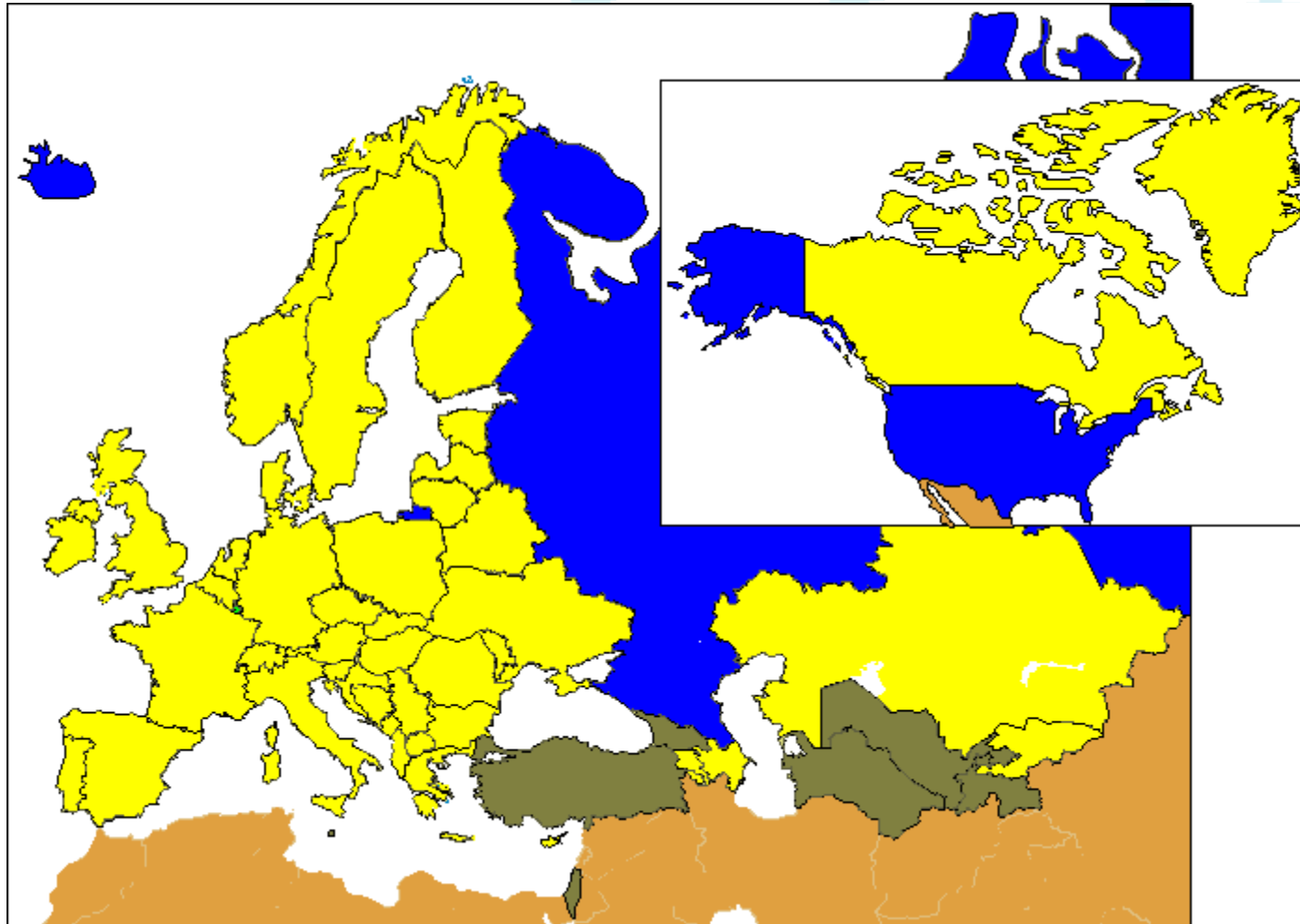
## Aspects

- Espoo Convention in brief
  - Status of ratification
  - Contacts
- SEA Protocol in brief
  - Status of ratification
  - What it involves
  - Benefits
- Workplan under Convention

## Espoo Convention in brief

- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
- Adopted at [Espoo](#) (Finland) in 1991; entered into force in 1997
- Now has 44 Parties
- Sets out obligations of Parties to
  - notify and consult each other on major projects under consideration likely to have significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries
  - assess environmental impact of such activities at early stage of planning
  - take into account in decision the results of consultations, including public participation, and the assessment

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## Status

State	Convention	1st amendment	2 <sup>nd</sup> amendment
Austria	Party	Party	Party
Croatia	Party	-	-
Hungary	Party	Party	Party
Italy	Party	-	-
Slovenia	Party	-	-
European Union	Party	Party	Party
56 member States	44 Parties	18 Parties	16 Parties

## Status of amendments

- 1<sup>st</sup> amendment only 18 Parties (not in force)  
Open Convention to all United Nations Member States
- 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment only 16 Parties (not in force)  
Make the review of compliance and reporting mandatory  
Take into account scoping  
Revise and extend the list of activities subject to the Convention  
Clarify when amendments come into force

# Points of contact & focal points

State	Point of contact	Focal point
Austria	Waltraud PETEK / Christian BAUMGARTNER, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Environment and Water Management	
Croatia	Nenad MIKULIC, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning & Construction	
Hungary	Virág POMOZI, Ministry of Environment and Water	Bálint DOBI, Ministry of Environment and Water
Italy	Carmela BILANZONE, Ministry for the Environment and Territory	Giuliana GASPARRINI, Ministry for the Environment and Territory
Slovenia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Vesna KOLAR-PLANINSIC, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

# Application



- Increasingly routine – number of Parties and number of cases
- Very approximately 30-50 cases per year
- Old examples
  - Hydropower plant, Croatia
  - Venice-Trieste long-distance high-speed railway
  - Cross-border-project Brenner base tunnel
  - Exploitation of gas fields with respective gas pipelines in North Adriatic

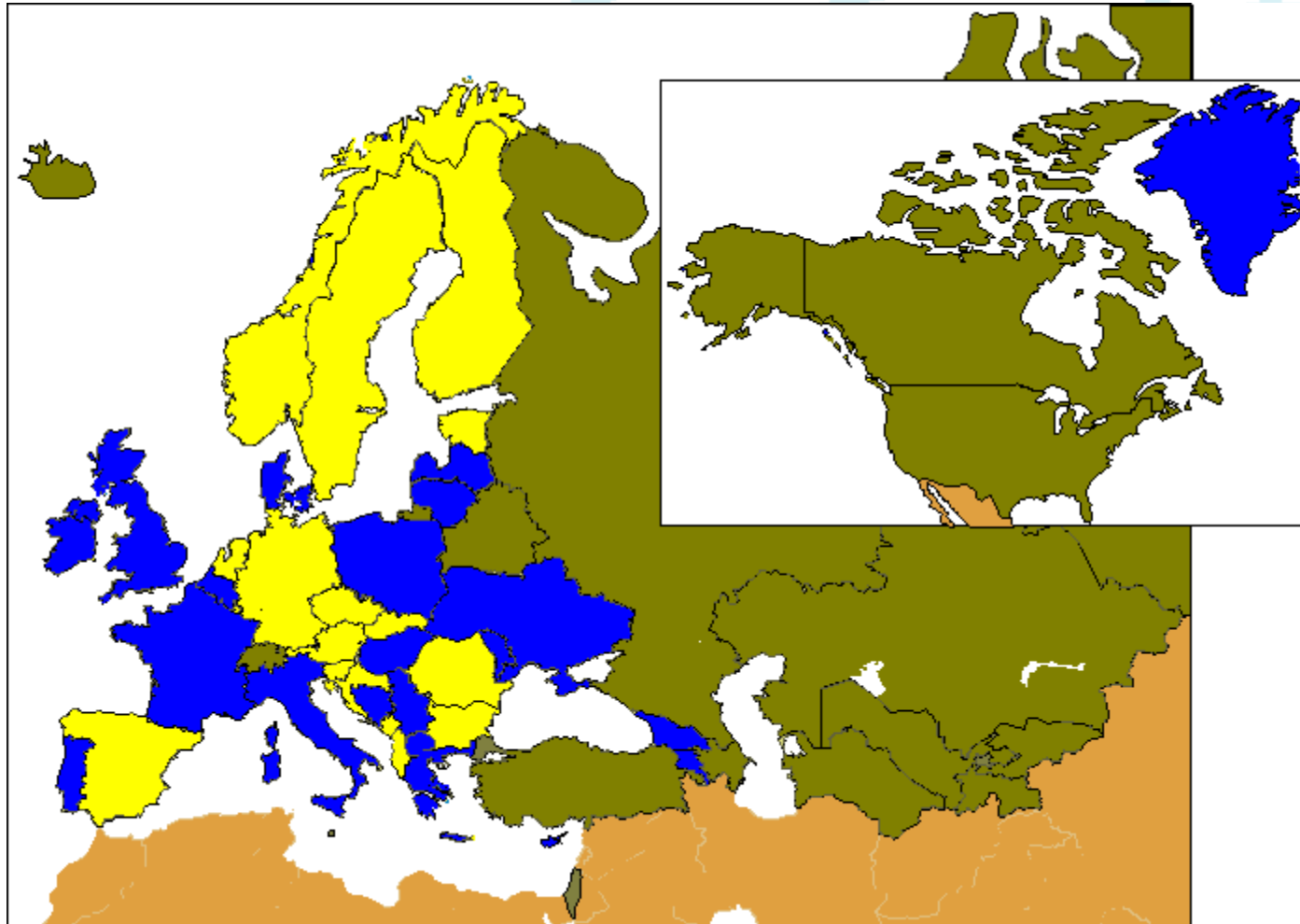


## SEA Protocol in brief

- Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Adopted at [Kiev](#) in 2003; enters into force on 11 July 2010
- Final meeting of Signatories in November 2010
- First meeting of Parties in June 2011
- Now has 18 Parties



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## Status

State	Protocol
Austria	Party
Croatia	Party
Hungary	Signatory ...
Italy	Signatory ...
Slovenia	Party
European Union	Party
56 member States	18 Parties

## What is SEA?

- SEA means the evaluation of likely environmental, including health, effects, which comprises
  - determination of scope of an environmental report & its preparation,
  - carrying-out of public participation & consultations, and
  - taking into account of the environmental report & the results of the public participation & consultations in a plan or programme
- (art. 2, para. 6)

## What is purpose of SEA?

- To ensure environmental considerations inform & are integrated into strategic decision-making in support of environmentally sound & sustainable development
- Assists authorities responsible for plans & programmes, & decision-makers, to take into account:
  - Key environmental trends, potentials & constraints that may affect or be affected by plan or programme
  - Environmental objectives & indicators relevant to plan or programme
  - Likely significant environmental effects of proposed options & implementation of plan or programme
  - Measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate adverse effects & to enhance positive effects
  - Views & information from relevant authorities, the public & (when relevant) **potentially affected States**

## What is added value of SEA compared with EIA?

- Opportunity to consider wider range of **alternatives** & options at this level compared with project stage
- Influencing type & location of development in sector / region, not just design / siting of individual project
- Enhanced capability to address cumulative & large-scale effects within time / space boundaries of plans & programmes as opposed to project level
- Facilitating sustainable development through addressing consistency of plan or programme objectives & options with relevant strategies, policies & commitments
- Streamlining & strengthening project EIA by tiering process to SEA report & so avoiding questions (whether / where / what type of development) that have been decided already with environmental input

## What is difference between Protocol and EU Directive?

- Health ... authorities
- Policies and legislation
- Beyond EU ... and beyond UNECE
- other minor

## What are benefits of SEA?

- Provide for high level of environmental protection
- Improve quality of plan and programme making
- Increase efficiency of decision-making
- Facilitate identification of new development opportunities
- Help prevent costly mistakes
- Strengthen governance
- Facilitate transboundary cooperation





## Guiding principles of SEA

- Undertaken by the authority responsible for plan or programme
- Applied as early as possible in decision-making process
- Focused on key issues
- Evaluates reasonable range of alternatives
- Provides appropriate opportunities for involvement of key stakeholders & the public
- Carried out with appropriate, cost-effective methods & techniques of analysis



## Work under Espoo Convention

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



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# Compliance with and implementation of the Convention

- ... and the Protocol





# Subregional cooperation

Subregion	Activities
Baltic Sea	Lithuania workshop (2009), ?(2010), Moscow?
Black Sea	Romania (2010) – seminar on EIA of large energy project in subregion - postponed
Caucasus	Georgia workshop (2010?)
Central Asia	Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan pilot project (2009) Tajikistan workshop (2010)
Eastern Europe	Belarus pilot project (2009-2010) 2 subregional workshops expected in 2010
Mediterranean Sea	Tunisia (2010) follow-up workshop on a specific topic (2010)
South-Eastern Europe	Bulgaria (2008), Montenegro (2009), Bosnia & Herzegovina ?(2010); only 2 countries from subregion approved agreement

# Exchange of good practices

- Large-scale projects
- Nuclear energy-related activities
- Legal implementation, especially in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

# Promoting ratification & application of SEA Protocol

- through UNDP
  - countries of West Balkans, September 2008
  - Belarus, August 2009
- national awareness workshops
  - Slovenia, 9 June 2010
  - Kyrgyzstan (with Tajikistan), 2010
- with WHO/Euro
  - health in SEA
- also GTZ/InWent further to OECD/DAC Guidance

## Contacts

- For more about the Espoo Convention, visit our website:  
[www.unece.org/env/eia](http://www.unece.org/env/eia)
- Or email: [eia.conv@unece.org](mailto:eia.conv@unece.org)
  - [nicholas.bonvoisin@unece.org](mailto:nicholas.bonvoisin@unece.org)