

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991)

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Start-up workshop for pilot implementation project
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Discussion on practical arrangements

- Institutional
- Financial
- Timing
- Other practical

Points of contact

- For formal notification
- For exchange of information
- For consultation

Language

- Language for correspondence
- Language for comments by affected States
- Translation of notification
- Translation of EIA documentation (which parts)
- Translation of final decision

Notification (art. 3.2)

- Timing of sending
 - As soon as possible
- Content
 - Decision I/4
 - If doesn't include art. 3.5, then need to address later:
 - Information on EIA procedure
 - Information on proposed activity & likely transboundary impact
- Language, and who does it (pays for it)?
- Who to receive in affected States?

Response to notification (art. 3.3)

- Indicate if will participate
- Deadline e.g. within 30 days
- Language of response (if translated, who pays?)
- What if no response?

Exchange of information (art. 3.6)

- Information needs by Belarus
- Timing of request
- To send to whom
- By when to respond
- Language of response (if translated, who pays?)

Comments on notification (art. 3.8)

- Which public and authorities can comment?
- Availability of notification documents
 - Publication in affected States
 - Public access – when, where and how
- Public hearing?
- Time allowed for comments by public and authorities in affected States
- Routing of comments?
 - Via authorities in affected States
 - Directly to authorities in Belarus
- Language of comments (if translated, who pays?)

EIA documentation (art. 4.1)

- Content
 - Appendix II
 - Proper scoping to determine direction and focus of EIA is likely to avoid delays later
 - Take into account comments received from affected States
 - Make sure study is systematic and adequate
 - Provide relevant / sufficient data to avoid need for supplementary information, causing delays
- Language ../..

EIA documentation (art. 4.1)

- Language
 - What to translate, e.g.
 - description of proposed activity and its purpose
 - non-technical summary
 - description of potential transboundary environmental impact of proposed activity and its alternatives, and estimation of significance
 - description of mitigation measures to minimize adverse impact
 - Translate enough to avoid delays when more information has to be translated later
 - Who does it or pays?

EIA documentation distribution (art. 4.2)

- Mechanism for distribution
- Form – paper, electronic, CD-ROM, Internet
- Number of copies?
- When and where available?
- Who covers costs?

Comments on EIA documentation (art. 4.2)

- Which public and authorities to comment?
- Public hearing?
 - When, where (Belarus, affected States?), who organizes
 - Practical issues – visas, interpretation (if in Belarus)
- Time allowed for comments by public and authorities in affected States
- Routing of comments?
 - Via authorities in affected States
 - Directly to authorities in Belarus
- Language of comments (if translated, who pays?)

Consultations (art. 5)

- Who will participate?
- Where?
- When?
 - When to start
 - How long to continue
- Language / interpretation
- Associated costs – who pays?

Final decision (art. 6)

- Timing of sending
- Who to receive
- Content
 - Decision
 - Explanation of how comments by the public and authorities of affected States have been taken into account
 - Any possibility for appeal

Timetable – pilot EIA

- Notification (art. 3.2) – when to send?
- Response (art. 3.3) – deadline?
- Exchange of information (art. 3.6)
 - When to request information?
 - When response due?
- Comments on notification (art. 3.8) – deadline?
- EIA documentation (art. 4.1) – period for preparation?
- EIA documentation distribution (art. 4.2) – when to distribute and how long available?
- Comments on EIA documentation (art. 4.2) – deadline?
- Consultations (art. 5) – period?
- Final decision (art. 6) – when to expect?

Timetable – whole project (18 months)

1. Initiating process: Start-up workshop (June 2009)
2. Pilot EIA (from xxx to xxx)
3. Assessment of project results (from xxx to expert meeting in xxx)
4. Development of national procedures & capacity building (from xxx to xxx)
5. Subregional conference to disseminate project results (xxx)
6. Publication of final project report (xxx)