

# **Questionnaire for the report of Cyprus on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in the period 2016–2018**

## **Information on the focal point for the Convention**

1. Name and contact information:  
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## **Information on the point of contact for the Convention**

2. Name and contact information (if different from above):

## **Information on the person responsible for preparing the report**

3. Country: Cyprus
4. Surname: Koutroukides
5. Forename: Demetris
6. Institution: Department of Environment
7. Postal address: As above
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10. Fax number: As above
11. Date on which report was completed: 18.04.19

# Part one

## Current legal and administrative framework for the implementation of the Convention

In this part, please provide the information requested, or revise any information relative to the previous report. Describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention. This part should describe the framework for your country's implementation, and not experience in the application of the Convention.

Please do not reproduce the text of the legislation itself but summarize and explicitly refer to the relevant provisions transposing the Convention text (e.g., EIA Law of the Republic of ..., art. 5, para. 3, of Government Resolution No. ..., para. ... item...)

### Article 1 Definitions

I.1. Is the definition of impact for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as in article 1?:

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes, with some differences (please provide details):
- (c) No (please provide the definition):
- (d) There are no definitions of impact in the legislation

Your comments:

I.2. Is the definition of transboundary impact for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as in article 1? Please specify each below.

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes, with some differences (please provide details):
- (c) No (please provide the definition):
- (d) There are no definitions of transboundary impact in the legislation

Your comments:

I.3. Please specify how major change is defined in your national legislation:

No specific definition for "major change" is provided in the national legislation.

I.4. How do you identify the public concerned? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Based on the geographical location of the proposed project
- (b) By making the information available to all members of the public and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned
- (c) By other means (please specify):

Your comments: Not yet proceeded to any kind of transboundary environmental impact assessment. When such a case occurs, depending on the proposed development, both practises described in (a) and (b) above may be used.

## Article 2

### General provisions

I.5. Provide legislative, regulatory, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention (art. 2, para. 2):

- (a) Law on EIA: Environmental Impact Assessment Law 127(I)2018
- (b) EIA provisions are transposed into another law(s) (please specify): No, as above.
- (c) Regulation (please indicate number/year/name): N/A (not applicable)
- (d) Administrative (please indicate number/year/name): N/A (not applicable)
- (e) Other (please specify):

I.6. Please describe any differences between the list of activities in your national legislation and appendix I to the Convention, if any:

- (a) There is no difference, all activities are transposed in the national legislation as is

- (b) It differs slightly

(please specify): All activities in the Convention that were added as a result of the latest amendments undertaken, are currently included in the national legislation. Moreover, additional activities are added in the national legislation.

I.7. Identify the competent authority/authorities responsible for carrying out the EIA procedure in your country (please specify):

- (a) There are different authorities at national, regional, local levels N/A
- (b) They are different for domestic and transboundary procedures N/A
- (c) Please name the responsible authority/authorities: Department of Environment
- (d) There is no single authority responsible for the entire EIA procedure: N/A

Your comments:

I.8. Is there an authority in your country that collects information on all the transboundary EIA cases? If so, please name it:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes  (please specify): Department of Environment

Your comments:

I.9. How does your country, As a Party of origin and as an affected Party, ensure that the opportunity given to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to the one given to the Party of origin's public, as required in article 2, paragraph 6 (please explain): When such an issue arises, the public is notified through public consultations, the Department's website, the government official gazette and public press, according to Law 127(I)/2018. Up to present, the Cyprus Government has proceeded to a transboundary environmental impact assessment for only a single case.

### Article 3 Notification

I.10. As a Party of origin, when do you notify the affected Party (art. 3, para. 1)? Please specify:

- (a) During scoping
- (b) When the EIA report has been prepared and the domestic procedure started
- (c) After finishing the domestic procedure
- (d) At other times (please specify):

Your comments:

I.11. Please define the format of notification:

- (a) It is the format as decided by the first meeting of the Parties in its decision I/4 (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix)
- (b) The country has its own format  (please attach a copy)
- (c) No official format used

Your comments: The public is notified through public consultation, correspondence addressed to organised groups/ organisations, the Department's website, the government official gazette and public press or the media, accordingly.

I.12. As a Party of origin, what information do you include in the notification (art. 3, para. 2)? Please specify (more than one options may apply):

- (a) The information required by article 3, paragraph 2
- (b) The information required by article 3, paragraph 5
- (c) Additional information (please specify):

Your comments:

I.13. As a Party of origin, does your national legislation contain any provision on receiving a response to the notification from the affected Party in a reasonable time frame (art. 3, para. 3, "within the time specified in the notification")? Please specify:

- (a) National legislation does not cover the time frame
- (b) Yes, it is indicated in the national legislation  (please indicate the time frame):
- (c) It is determined and agreed with each affected Party case by case in the beginning of the transboundary consultations  (please indicate the average length in weeks): It is determined on a case by case basis. According to the Cyprus constitution, reasonable time for response is 30 days.

I.14. How do you inform the public and authorities of the affected Party (art. 3, para. 8)? Please specify:

- (a) By informing the point of contact to the Convention listed on the Convention website!
- (b) Other (please specify): Furthermore, the public should be notified through public consultations, the Department's website, the government official gazette and public press or the media, accordingly.

Your comments:

I.15. On what basis is the decision made to participate (or not) in the transboundary EIA procedure as an affected Party (art. 3, para. 3)? Please specify:

- (a) Notified ministry/authority of the affected Party responsible for EIA decides on its own based on the documentation provided by the Party of origin
- (b) Based on the opinions of the competent authorities of the affected Party
- (c) Based on the opinions of the competent authorities and that of the public of the affected Party
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

I.16. If the affected Party has indicated that it intends to participate in the EIA procedure, how are the details for such participation agreed, including the time frame for consultations and the deadline for commenting (art. 5)? Please specify:

- (a) Following the rules and procedures of the Party of origin
- (b) Following the rules and procedures of the affected Party
- (c) Other (please specify): On a case by case basis – having a bilateral agreement with the party of origin

Your comments:

## Articles 3.8 and 4.2

### Public participation

I.17. How can the public express its opinion on the EIA documentation of the proposed project (art. 5)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

*As a Party of origin*

- (a) By sending comments to the competent authority/focal point
- (b) By taking part in a public hearing
- (c) Other (please specify): Through public press or the media.

*As an affected Party*

- (d) By sending comments to the competent authority/focal point

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<sup>1</sup> List available from [http://www.unece.org/env/eia/points\\_of\\_contact.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/eia/points_of_contact.htm).

(e) By taking part in a public hearing

(f) Other (please specify): Through public press or the media

Your comments:

I.18. Please indicate whether your national EIA legislation requires the organization of a public hearing on the territory of the affected Party in cases where your country is the country of origin:

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments: This is decided by the Department of Environment on a case by case basis, accordingly.

I.19. Please indicate whether your national EIA legislation requires the organization of public hearings in cases where your country is the affected Party:

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments: This is decided by the Department of Environment on a case by case basis, accordingly.

#### **Article 4**

#### **Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation**

I.20. How do you ensure sufficient quality of the EIA documentation As a Party of origin? Please specify:

(a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures it includes all information required under appendix II as a minimum before making it available for comments

(b) By using quality checklists

(c) There are no specific procedures or mechanisms

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

I.21. How do you determine the relevant information to be included in the EIA documentation in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) By using appendix II

(b) By using the comments received from the authorities concerned during the scoping phase, if applicable

(c) By using the comments from members of the public during the scoping phase, if applicable

(d) As determined by the proponent based on its own expertise

(e) By using other means (please specify): When applicable, appendix V of the Environmental Impact Assessment Law 127(I)2018 is used, as it includes more detailed guidelines than appendix II of the Espoo Convention. In cases

where non-Eu member states are involved, the Convention (appendix II ) is utilised.

Your comments:

I.22. How do you determine “reasonable alternatives” in accordance with appendix II, paragraph (b)?

- (a) On a case-by-case basis
- (b) As defined in the national legislation (please specify):
- (c) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

## **Article 5**

### **Consultations on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation**

I.23. Does your national EIA legislation have any provision on the organization of transboundary consultations between the authorities of the concerned Parties? Please specify:

- (a) Yes, it is obligatory
- (b) No, it does not have any provision on that
- (c) It is optional  (please specify):

Your comments: National legislation provides for transboundary consultations, providing general directions on how to achieve this.

## **Article 6**

### **Final decision**

I.24. Please indicate all points below that are covered in a final decision related to the implementation of the planned activity (art. 6, para. 1):

- (a) Conclusions of the EIA documentation
- (b) Comments received in accordance with article 3, paragraph 8, and article 4, paragraph 2
- (c) Outcome of the consultations as referred to in article 5
- (d) Outcomes of the transboundary consultations
- (e) Comments received from the affected Party
- (f) Mitigation measures
- (g) Other (please specify):

I.25. Are the comments of the authorities and the public of the affected Party and the outcome of the consultations taken into consideration in the same way as the comments from the authorities and the public in your country (art. 6, para. 1)?:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Your comments:

I.26. Is there any regulation in the national legislation of your country that ensures the implementation of the provisions of article 6, paragraph 3?:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes  (please specify):

Your comments:

I.27. Do all activities listed in appendix I (items 1-22) require a final decision to authorize or undertake such an activity?:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No  (please specify those that do not):

Your comments:

## **Article 7**

### **Post-project analysis**

I.29. Is there any provision regarding post-project analysis in your national EIA legislation (art. 7, para. 1)?:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes

Your comments:

## **Article 8**

### **Bilateral and multilateral cooperation**

#### **(a) Agreements**

I.30. Does your country have any bilateral or multilateral agreements based on the Convention (art. 8, appendix VI)?:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes  Please specify with which countries: Israel and Egypt

If publicly available, please also attach the texts of such bilateral and multilateral agreements, preferably in English, French or Russian. It is not publicly available as it is of confidential nature.

I.31. What issues do these bilateral agreements cover (appendix VI)? (More than one option may apply):

- (a) Specific conditions of the subregion concerned
- (b) Institutional, administrative and other arrangements
- (c) Harmonization of the Parties' policies and measures
- (d) Developing, improving, and/or harmonizing methods for the identification, measurement, prediction and assessment of impacts, and for post-project analysis

- (e) Developing and/or improving methods and programmes for the collection, analysis, storage and timely dissemination of comparable data regarding environmental quality in order to provide input into the EIA
- (f) Establishment of threshold levels and more specified criteria for defining the significance of transboundary impacts related to the location, nature or size of proposed activities
- (g) Undertaking joint EIA, development of joint monitoring programmes, intercalibration of monitoring devices and harmonization of methodologies
- (h) Other, please specify:  
Your comments:

**(b) Procedural steps required by national legislation**

I.32. Please describe the steps required for a transboundary EIA procedure under your national legislation:

- When the Environment Department acquires evidence that a certain development project may have a negative environmental effect on another member state of the EU (or a member state of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context - Espoo, 1991), or if the affected member state requests for information regarding the above mentioned development project, then the Environment Department is obliged to provide all necessary information describing the project and the possible negative environmental effects.

- A reasonable time limit is allowed for the affected party, in order to express interest of participation (or not) in the assessment procedure.

- If the affected party expresses interest to participate in the assessment procedure, all relevant information regarding the project of transboundary context is sent in a timely manner to the affected party. Subsequently the party of origin and affected parties should cooperate, to formulate competent procedures aiming at a joint and effective environmental assessment of the project under study.

- As a Party of origin the public is notified through public consultations, the Department's website, the government official gazette and public press, and can express its opinion on the EIA documentation of the proposed project by sending comments to the competent authority/focal point. As an affected party, in addition to the above, national legislation obliges competent authorities to organise at least one public hearing for the organised groups and representatives of the public which is possible to be affected by the proposed project.

- Taking into account the public's views/opinion and the affected party's contribution (if the Cyprus Government is the party of origin), a final decision regarding the project is taken. The decision which could be positive or negative, is uploaded on the Department of the Environment webpage and the government official gazette.

Alternatively, this question can be answered or supported by providing a schematic flowchart showing these steps.

Your comments:

I.33. Does your country have special provisions or informal arrangements concerning transboundary EIA procedures for joint cross-border projects (e.g., roads, pipelines)?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes  (please specify):

- (i) Special provisions:
- (ii) Informal arrangements:

Your comments:

I.34. Does your country have special provisions or informal arrangements concerning transboundary EIA procedures for nuclear power plants (NPPs)?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes  (please specify):
  - (i) Special provisions:
  - (ii) Informal arrangements:

Your comments:

## Part two

### Practical application during the period 2016–2018

Please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Convention (not your country's procedures described in part one), whether As a Party of origin or affected Party. The focus here is on identifying good practices as well as difficulties Parties have encountered in applying the Convention in practice. The goal is to enable Parties to share solutions. Parties should therefore provide appropriate examples highlighting application of the Convention and innovative approaches to improve its application.

II.1. Does your country object to the information on transboundary EIA procedures that you provide in this section being compiled and made available on the website of the Convention? Please specify (indicate "yes" if you object):

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments:

#### 1. Experience in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure during the period 2016–2018

##### Cases during the period 2016–2018

II.2. If your country's national administration has a record of transboundary EIA procedures that were under way during the reporting period, in which your country was a Party of origin or affected Party, please list them in the tables II.2 (a) and II.2 (b) below (adding additional rows as needed).

Table II.2 (a)

##### Transboundary EIA procedures: As a Party of origin

Project name	Starting date (date notification sent)	Affected Party/ Parties	Timing of the notification (screening, scoping or preparation of the EIA documentation)	Length of the main steps in months			Final decision (date of issuing, if information is available)
				Submission of the environmental report	Transboundary consultations (expert), if any	Public participation, including public hearing, if any	
1. EuroAsia Interconnector	October 2017	Greece Israel, Cyprus	Within October 2017.	Submitted in September 2017 and examined during October 2017.	With Israel and Greece focal points	Public was notified through public hearing, the Department's website, the government official gazette and public press.	Positive decision with terms and conditions to be implemented, was granted (8.12.17).
2.							
3.							

Project name	Starting date (date notification sent)	Affected Party/ Parties	Timing of the notification (screening, scoping or preparation of the EIA documentation)	Length of the main steps in months			Final decision (date of issuing, if information is available)
				Submission of the environmental report	Transboundary consultations (expert), if any	Public participation, including public hearing, if any	
4.							
...							

Your comments:

Please share with other Parties your country's experience of using the Convention in practice. In response to each of the questions below, either provide one or two practical examples or describe your country's general experience. You might also include examples of lessons learned in order to help others.

II.3. The Convention does not mention the translation of EIA documentation as an important prerequisite for the participation of potentially affected Parties in a transboundary EIA procedure. Please explain:

(a) How has your country addressed the issue of the translation of EIA documentation? Translations of EIAs in English can be provided by the Press and Information Office, which is a government authority, charging at a standard cost per page translated.

(b) What difficulties has your country experienced with regard to translation and interpretation, both as a Party of origin and as an affected Party, and what solutions has it found? No difficulties experienced

(c) Which Party covers the cost of translation of EIA documentation?

(i) As a Party of origin:

(ii) As an affected Party:

(iii) Other, specify: We have not proceeded to a translation for the EuroAsia Interconnector. However, potential translation needs can be arranged between parties, on a case by case basis.

(d) What parts of the EIA documentation does your country usually translate?

(i) As a Party of origin:

(ii) As an affected Party:

(iii) Other, specify: potential translation needs can be arranged between parties, on a case by case basis.

(e) Please indicate whether and how the issue of translation is addressed in bilateral agreements between your country and other Parties: Translations are provided by the Press and Information Office, which is a government authority.

(f) As a Party of origin, in which languages do you usually provide EIA documentation to the affected Party?

(i) English

(ii) The affected Party's language

- (iii) Other (please, specify)
- (g) As an affected Party, from which language do you usually translate?
  - (i) English
  - (ii) Language of the Party of origin
  - (iii) Other (please, specify)
- (h) Describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during public participation procedures and consultations under article 5, for example with regard to timing, language and the need for additional information.

(i) As a Party of origin:

Experience with public participation: No difficulties experienced

Experience with consultations under article 5: No difficulties experienced

(ii) As an affected Party:

Experience with public participation N/A

Experience with consultations under article 5 N/A

(i) Please describe how the costs of interpretation during the hearings are covered: N/A

(ii) By the Party of origin:

(iii) By the affected Party:

(iv) Shared by both Parties concerned:

(v) Developer:

(vi) Other, please specify

II.4. Describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during transboundary public participation (expert consultation, public hearing, etc.), including on issues of timing, language and the need for additional information: N/A

II.5. Does your country have successful examples of organizing transboundary EIA procedures for joint cross-border projects or that of an NPP?:

(a) Yes

(b) No

II.6. If you answered yes to question II.5, please provide information on your country's experiences describing, for example, means of cooperation (e.g., contact points, joint bodies, bilateral agreements, special and common provisions, etc.), institutional arrangements, and how practical matters are dealt with (e.g., translation, interpretation, transmission of documents, etc.): N/A

(a) For joint cross-border projects:

(b) For NPPs:

II.7. Please provide examples from your experience during the reporting period (either complete cases or elements such as notification, consultation and public participation) that, in your view, constitute good practice: N/A

II.8. Would your country like to introduce a case in the form of a Convention "case study fact sheet"?

(a) No

(b) Yes  (please indicate which cases):

II.9. Has your country carried out post-project analyses in the period 2013–2015:

(a) No

(b) Yes  (please indicate which projects, along with the challenges in implementation and any lessons learned):

## 2. Experience in using the guidance in 2016–2018 -

II.10. Has your country used in practice the following guidance, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and available online?

(a) Guidance on Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/7):

No

Yes  (please provide details):

Your experience with using this guidance:

Your suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance:

(b) Guidance on subregional cooperation (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex V, appendix):

No

Yes  (please provide details):

Your experience with using this guidance:

Your suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance:

(c) Guidance on the Practical Application of the Espoo Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/8):

No

Yes  (please provide details):

Your experience with using this guidance:

Your suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance:

### **3. Clarity of the Convention**

II.11. Has your country had difficulties implementing the procedures defined in the Convention, either As a Party of origin or as an affected Party, because of a lack of clarity of the provisions?

No

Yes  (please indicate which provisions and how they are unclear):

### **4. Suggested improvements to the report**

II.12 Please provide further suggestions (preferably specific drafting proposals) for how this report could be improved.