

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

**Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment
and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Sixth meeting

Geneva, 7–10 November 2016
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Brainstorming session on the future of the Convention and the Protocol

**Programme and background of the brainstorming session on the future of the
Convention and the Protocol**

Note by Austria, Finland and the Netherlands

Background and objectives

As agreed by the Working Group at its last meeting in April 2016, Austria, Finland, France, the Netherlands and Norway will hold a three-hour brainstorming session to discuss the future of the convention and the Protocol. Among others, the session aims to take stock of the results achieved since the adoption of the Convention and the Protocol, and to discuss the strategic vision and the future role and aims of these treaties, taking into account the present and emerging priorities, needs and challenges. The results of the brainstorming session can be utilized in the possible development of a strategy and an action plan for the future application of the Convention and the Protocol. The expected output of the brainstorming session is to create a clear picture of:

- a. **Results achieved so far; what are we proud of?**
- b. **What we want to keep.**
- c. **What we want to improve.**

Agenda

Brainstorming session (Monday, 7 November, 3–6 p.m.)

- **Welcome and introduction to the brainstorming session**
Chair: Seija Rantakallio, Ministry of the Environment, Finland
- **Introduction to the working methods**
Facilitator: Rob Verheem, Director International of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), the Netherlands

- **Mind-mapping exercise: Of which achievements in the last 20 years are we most proud?**
- **Discussion in groups**
Brainstorm in smaller groups of 6 – 10 persons with a discussion leader and a rapporteur
 - Round 1: **What should we keep doing?**
 - Round 2: **What and how could we do better?**

Plenary discussion on the outcomes of the brainstorming session

(Tuesday, 8 November, 10-10.30 a.m.)

- **Presentation of the outcomes of the group discussions**
Rob Verheem, Director International of the NCEA
- **Discussion**
- **Concluding remarks**
Seija Rantakallio, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

To prepare yourself for the brainstorming, please have a look at the background information provided as an Annex to this programme.

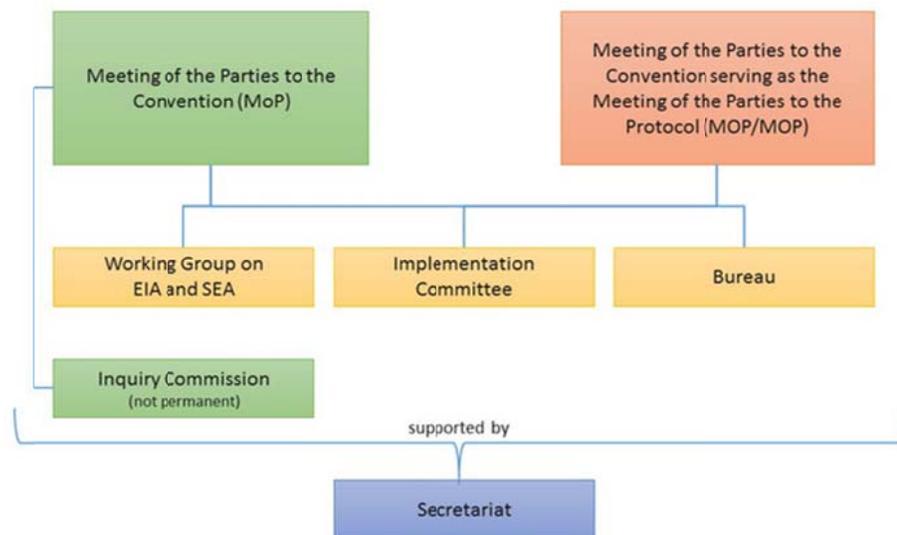
Annex

Background information for the brainstorming session on the future of the Convention and the Protocol

WHAT HAVE WE NOW?

Number of Parties	
Espoo Convention	45
Protocol on SEA	30

Bodies



Work under the Convention and the Protocol

- Compliance & implementation
 - Review of compliance (based on submissions by Parties; information from other sources or arising from national reporting)
 - Reporting and review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol
 - Preparation of guidance documents/recommendations
 - [As needed, drafting of amendments; aligning the authentic treaty texts]
- Subregional cooperation
 - Subregional coordination and experience-sharing workshops
 - Negotiation and implementation of sub-regional agreements (Bucharest Agreement)
- Capacity-building
 - Technical advice (reviews of existing legislation, assistance in legal drafting; national or sub-regional guidance documents)
 - Pilot projects
 - Subregional, national and local training and awareness raising workshops

- Study tours
- Exchange of good practices
 - Workshops or half-day seminars within meetings of the Working Group and the Meetings of the Parties
- Promoting ratification & application
 - fact sheets, workshop and training reports, advocacy material (video, brochures, leaflets)

Subregions

- Baltic Sea (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden)
- Black Sea (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine)
- Caspian Sea (Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan)
- Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)
- Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)
- Eastern Europe (Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine)
- Mediterranean Sea (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey)
- South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

Guidance produced

- Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation in Strategic Environmental Assessment (February 2016)
- Simplified Resource Manual to Support Application of the SEA Protocol (September 2012)
- Resource Manual to Support Application of the SEA Protocol (December 2011)
- Guidance on Notification according to the Espoo Convention (December 2009)
- Guidance on the Practical Application of the Espoo Convention (May 2006)
- Guidance on public participation in EIA in a transboundary context (May 2006)
- Guidance on the Practical Application (January 2003)
- Protecting our environment: How environmental impact assessment can help (November 1998)
- Current Policies, Strategies and Aspects of Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (January 1996)
- Specific methodologies and criteria to determine the significance of adverse transboundary impact (January 1995)
- Application of Environmental Impact Assessment Principles to Policies, Plans and Programmes (January 1992)
- Policies and systems of environmental impact assessment (February 1991)
- Post-Project Analysis in Environmental Impact Assessment (January 1990)
- Application of Environmental Impact Assessment: Highways and Dams (July 1987)

WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

- New priorities/thematic focus areas globally (e.g. climate change) and nationally?
- More Parties? Impact of increase in Parties from UNECE region? From worldwide?
- Regional Sub-treaties?
- Amendments to the Convention/Protocol? On which issues?
- Cooperation with other Conventions and other international processes? Which ones, on which issues?
- Should frequency of MOPs change? What about meetings of the Working Group, Bureau and the Implementation Committee?
- Roles and working methods of Convention bodies and the secretariat?
- How to address resource constraints? New sources of funding?
- Better national legal implementation of Convention or Protocol?
- Need for new or revised/updated guidance? On which issues?