





















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

Twenty-eighth session of ECE Committee on Environmental Policy 1-3 November 2023

Martine Rohn



Espoo Convention Status



- Adopted in Espoo (Finland) in 1991
- In force since 1997
- 45 Parties across UNECE region, including EU
 - RUS and US are Signatories
- Amended in 2001 to become global but 4 pending ratifications by: ARM, BEL, MKD, UK
- 2nd (2004) amendment: extended scope, formalized compliance review & mandatory reporting (9 Parties still to ratify: ARM, BY, BEL, BIH, IRE, KAZ, KYRG, MKD, UK)





Espoo Convention Developments and achievements



- Routinely applied in UNECE region. Has influenced legislation and practice also in other regions
- Effectively prevents & minimizes cross-border damage to environment (air, water, biodiversity, climate, soil) from projects, enhances international cooperation and environmental governance
- Extensive capacity building and legislative assistance to 11 countries 2001-2023 (Bilateral agreement UA-ROM (Nov. 2022)
- Since 2001, Implementation Committee assists Parties in effective implementation: in 2021-23: 53 compliance cases, incl. on life-time extension of NPPs
- Active subregional cooperation and exchange of good practice: in 2021-23: Report on synergies and cooperation proposals to protect marine regions, prepared in consultation with 6 regional sea conventions/bodies (with ITA funding)
- Parties' mandatory reporting summarized in reviews of implementation (latest 2019-2021)





Espoo Convention Lessons and challenges



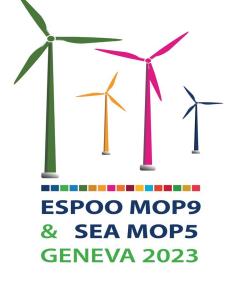
- Extreme resource constraints for servicing core work of the Convention + its Protocol; future capacity-building and outreach
- Increasing accessions + implementation within and beyond the UNECE region
- Diversity of Parties' views/interests within + between countries,
 e.g. re. transboundary EIA of LTE of NPPs
- Making full use of the treaties potential to address global, regional goals and commitments
- Links between green taxonomies and impact assessment would benefit from clarification





Espoo Convention Plans and prospects

- 9th MOP session (Geneva, 12-15 Dec. 2023)
 - High-level panel on energy transition, circular economy and green financing
 - Compliance decisions e.g. on LTE of NPPs



- MOP to strengthen the secretariat or to scale down meetings and activities 2024-2026 and beyond.
- Secretariat's capacity building work (2003-2024) discontinued but bilateral and partner organization's support builds on it
- Global opening likely in 2024-2026
- Subregional work extended to Mediterranean region







ENVIRONMENT





















Thank you!

[name of presenter]
[name of MEA]
UNECE