

ESPOO CONVENTION BILATERAL COOPERATION ITALY-CROATIA

The bilateral agreement Italy-Croatia has been signed in 1998 on the occasion of some hydrocarbons development and transport projects. Its main purpose was that to settle procedural questions involved in these projects.

The two countries, on that occasion, decided to set up a “Joint Body”, representing the 2 governments, having the task of accomplishing the Espoo Convention fulfilments for both these projects and those that would have come in the future.

Tasks and forms of intervention in any case have not been further on defined.

The agreement is intended to define a general willingness, from the 2 Countries, to collaborate and to exchange information, while specific procedure for different projects are fixed by the 2 parts for each case. In all cases of projects, after the 1998 agreement, for which the Convention application was required, the concerned activities were of a common nature, i.e. joint projects (sea-lines for hydrocarbons transport). In such cases it is not possible to define a Party of origin and an affected Party, and each Party assess the part of the project falling under its territory.

Particularly the following forms have been fixed:

1. EIA Procedure

Each Country carry out EIA procedure on the portion of the project located on their territory according to the specific national legislation

2. Public Participation

Each Country carries out public consultation according to their specific national legislation. This consultation is referred to transboundary impacts produced on their territory by the project located on the territory of the other country.

Each Country take care to inform the other about the results of this consultation.

(Regarding Italy the information concerning the project, as well as the possibility for the public to examine the documents and to present their comments, will be published on two newspapers with a national and local circulation. According national procedure the public must be informed also about the final decision, including the reasons and considerations on which it is based.)

3. Final Decision

Each Country takes the final decision according to its national EIA procedure. Final decision must take into account all comments received, included the comments of the public of the other Country.

Before the final decision on the proposed activity is taken, the agreement foresees that focal points should meet in order to establish possible elements to be included into the final decision. Some of these elements could be: environmental monitoring, possible measures to mitigate relevant impact and environmental compensation measures.

The developer of the project has supported the competent authorities in documents' translation; English is also the language used in mail exchange and meetings.