Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention

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Protocol on SEA
Status

o Adopted in Kyiv, **in 2003**

o In force since **2010**

o 33 Parties, in UNECE region, including EU

    o Signatory States: **BEL, FR, GEO, GR, IRL, UK**

o Open to all UN Member States

Protocol on SEA
Developments and achievements

ENVIRONMENT

o Fosters sustainable planning across economic sectors, energy transition, achievement of most SDGs and climate commitments and safeguards biodiversity.

o Technical assistance and capacity building to 11 countries on SEA: that for ARM, AZE, GEO, MDA, UA cont'd with EU4Environment funding (2019-April 2024)

o Report on treaties' role in energy transition, circular economy and green financing (with ITA funding) – to be discussed by a high-level panel (14 December))

o Document informing about assessment of health and involvement of health authorities in SEA (tabled for the MOPs)

Protocol on SEA
Lessons and challenges

- Lack of proper legal and regulatory basis (esp. Central Asia)

- **Insufficient awareness and understanding** of SEA and its benefits (seen as costly, time consuming and complicated)

- **Insufficient public interest** and high-level **political backing**

- **Lack of implementation capacities** at regional and local levels

- **Lack of proper institutional structures**/culture for consultation across sectors and tiers of governments and for public participation

- **Assessing health in SEA,** including transboundary effects; consultations with health authorities

- Need for capacity building and guidance to promote accessions

Protocol on SEA
Plans and prospects

- Increasing awareness and accessions (including by Central Asian countries)

- Key role continues in sustainable spatial planning, including maritime spatial planning, greening energy planning reaching SDGs, and climate commitments

- In the future, SEA will be key in sustainable planning of the post-war reconstruction of infrastructure and cities in Ukraine

- The Protocol's potential to promoting circular economy to be further exploited

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ENVIRONMENT

Thank you!

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