

Economic Commission for Europe
Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Sixth session

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

Second session

Geneva, 2–5 June 2014

Items 3 (c) and 5 of the provisional agenda

Outstanding issues: Draft decision on the adoption of the workplan;

Review of the workplan and work done by the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Informal assessment of the completion of the workplan

Note by the secretariat

This note summarises the status (as of 4 April 2014) of implementation of the activities foreseen in the workplan for 2011-2014 (decision V/9–I/9) or related to it.

<i>Degree of implementation</i>	<i>Workplan activities</i>	<i>Other activities</i>
Cancelled	8 (17%)	
Not completed. No funding available.	1 (2%)	1
Outline arrangements, including funding	4 (9%)	0
Ongoing	7 (15%)	2
Completed	26 (57%)	12
Total	46 (100%)	15

The below table informally assesses the completion in percentages of the workplan activities by priority, excluding those that were cancelled. Activities included in the Convention's budget (decision V/10–I/10) were assigned priorities 1 and 2. Priority 3 activities, in turn, include other workplan activities that were financed through Parties' earmarked contributions or through project funding. The percentages were calculated only for activities in the workplan, without counting the other/additional activities for the implementation of Convention and the Protocol that were completed in 2011-2014 (as listed at the end of the document).

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Total number of activities</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Cancelled</i>	<i>Completion % (excluding cancelled)</i>
1	1	1	0	100 %
2	17	15	1	94 %
3	28	10	7	48 %
Total	46	26	8	68 %

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol			Most items included in Implementation Committee and secretariat costs. Exceptions are identified below.	
1. Consideration by the Implementation Committee of received compliance submissions.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 and the MOP/MOP2.	Estimated budget for translation of submissions: \$10,000.	(2) The Committee completed consideration of three submissions. Draft decisions on compliance (ECE/MP.EIA/2014/L.3 and ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/L.3).
2. Report on the Committee's activities to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	–	(2) Completed (ECE/MP.EIA/2014/4-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/4)
3. If necessary, review of the Committee's structure and functions and operating rules.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	2011–2014, presented to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	–	(2) Completed (ECE/MP.EIA/2014/L.3, Annex I).
4. Examination of the outcome of the third review of implementation.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat.	By the end of 2011.	–	(2) Completed.

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
5. Simplification of the questionnaire for the report on implementation of the Convention, and its extension for the report on implementation of the Protocol.	Implementation Committee, with the support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, of WHO.	Presentation of draft modified questionnaire to the Working Group by the end of 2012.	–	(2) Completed.
6. Distribution of the questionnaire to the Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol for them to complete and return.	Carried out by the secretariat.	Issue of questionnaire, early 2013. Return of questionnaires by mid-2013.	–	(2) Completed.
7. Preparation of a draft review of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.	Carried out by the secretariat.	Presentation of draft review to the Working Group at the end of 2013 and to MOP6 and MOP/MOP2.	Requires an external consultant, budget: \$20,000.	(1) Completed (ECE/MP.EIA/2014/3 and ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/3).

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
<p>8. Country-specific performance reviews and technical assistance in drafting legislation, in agreement with Parties wishing to strengthen their implementation of and compliance with the Convention and the Protocol.</p> <p>(a) Review would include a period in-country examining legislation, procedures and practice (case study), and would build upon earlier reviews further to decision IV/2. Parties experiencing similar problems might be assisted jointly.</p> <p>(b) Development of general guidance on resolving a possible systemic inconsistency between the Convention and environmental assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise</p>	<p>Undertaken by external consultant(s) under supervision of members of the Committee, with support of the secretariat and, where appropriate, WHO.</p>	<p>As decided by the Implementation Committee.</p>	<p>\$75,000 (approximately \$25,000 per review), plus in-kind contributions from Parties providing experts and from target country providing interpretation, translation, etc., and/or through the EnvSec Initiative with regard to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.</p>	<p>(2) No performance reviews were initiated by the Implementation Committee during the intersessional period 2011-2014.</p> <p>(2) Completed (ECE/MP.EIA/2014/2). To be adopted by MOP-6.</p>
<p>9. Pre-accession legislative assistance:</p> <p>(a) Technical support to Uzbekistan to review its national legislation for implementation of the Convention and to propose amendments.</p>	<p>Uzbekistan</p> <p>External consultant(s), with support of the secretariat, possibly UNDP Uzbekistan.</p>	<p>2014.</p>	<p>(3) On-going. Arrangements made. Funding provided by Switzerland and UNECE-GIZ programme. The launch of the project activities, scheduled for early 2014, await for the final approval from Uzbekistan.</p>	

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
(b) (i) Technical advice to Belarus on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments.	Belarus External consultant(s), with support of the secretariat, UNDP Minsk, Zoï environment network	2013.		(3) Completed.
(b) (ii) Technical advice to Ukraine on improving legislation to implement the Protocol and advice in drafting necessary amendments.	Ukraine			(3) Ukraine confirmed to the Working Group in May 2013 that the technical advice was not needed during the intersessional period 2011-2014.
10. Collection of findings and opinions from the Committee regarding the Convention and the Protocol, posted on website.	Carried out by the secretariat.	Annual updates.		(2) Completed.
Subregional cooperation and capacity-building to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the ECE⁸ region				Expected outcome: Workshop reports and possible reports on specific issues.
South-Eastern Europe subregion 1. Workshop(s) on implementation of the Convention, Protocol and Bucharest Agreement in the subregion.	Lead country: Bosnia and Herzegovina, with support of the secretariat and UNEP.	-		(3) No funding available and no further interest/availability by the lead country for implementing the activity.
Mediterranean subregion, including Adriatic Sea 2. Workshop in France on practical application of the	Lead country: France, in collaboration with Spain.	-		(3) Not completed. No funding provided by the lead countries. Possibly postponed to next intersessional period

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
Convention on the basis of the results in the previous workshops				
Carried forward workshop for Mediterranean	Lead country: Morocco previously indicated an interest, possibly with support of GIZ.	-		(2) Funding largely available in budget, but difficulties for establishing practical arrangements. Likely to be held in the next intersessional period.
Baltic Sea subregion	Lead countries: Sweden, Poland, Germany, Estonia.	27–28 October 2011.	In kind	(3) Completed by Poland.
3. Holding at least two meetings				
(a)				
(b)		20–21 September 2012.	In kind	(3) Completed by Estonia.
(c)		2014.	In kind	(3) A seminar planned to be held in Rostock, Germany, 17–18 October 2013, was cancelled. Rescheduled for autumn 2014.
Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia			Donor or in-kind contributions by beneficiary countries.	
4. (a) Pilot transboundary EIA, post-project analysis	Belarus with Ukraine External consultant(s), with support of the secretariat, UNDP Minsk, UNEP.	2013–2014.		(3) To be completed by MOP6.

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
4. (b) Pilot transboundary EIA	Kyrgyzstan with Kazakhstan		Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative.	(3) Cancelled. Kyrgyzstan confirmed that a pilot project was no longer needed.
5. Subregional workshop for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on EIA in the context of climate change, biodiversity, desertification	Lead country: Kazakhstan.	–		(3) Cancelled. No further interest by the lead country.
6. Seminars for all Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries for the exchange of information, legislation and good practice between all States, followed by the dissemination of seminar results in each country, including to the public and NGOs.	Dissemination of seminar results: All Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia countries.			
(a) Exchange among those countries that reformed their national legislation and have experience in strengthening their professional potential (invite experts from the EU, for example);	Georgia	2015.		(3) Funding available (EaP-GREEN ^a). Postponed to 2015.
(b) On EIA, nature protection areas and mining, and guidance on sectors such as mining, energy, construction and agriculture.	Ukraine	2016.		(3) Funding available (EaP-GREEN). Postponed to 2016 and the topic readjusted.
(c) Subregional conference to disseminate results of EIA pilot	Belarus	15 April 2014.		(3) To be held 15 April.

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
and SEA training.				
7. Conference on climate change and EIA.	Lead country: Republic of Moldova, with the support of the secretariat.			(3) Cancelled. According to Moldova, the conference is no longer a priority.
8. Conference “Silk Road: development and environmental protection in EIA”.	Lead country: Uzbekistan.		Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative.	(3) Cancelled. According to Uzbekistan, the conference is no longer a priority.
Exchange of good practices			\$40,000 (approximately \$10,000 per seminar, with up to four seminars)	Expected outcomes: From each workshop or seminar, a brief, clear document presenting advice on the most important identified problems for the theme in question.
1. Biodiversity;	Lead country: Belgium, with support of EC.	2013.	In kind.	(3) Completed in May 2013.
2. Renewable energy: wind farms, renewable fuels (including biomass) and large-scale solar;	Lead country: Poland.	2014.	In kind.	(3) A seminar on wind energy to be held by Poland during MOP-6.
3. One-day workshop on the long-range impacts of nuclear energy-related activities.	Lead countries: Austria, Finland and Sweden.	2013.	In kind.	(3) Completed in November 2013.

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEAⁿ				Expected outcomes: Ratifications
1. Maintenance of the Resource Manual, including its health annex.	Lead: secretariat with the support of WHO.	2014.		(2) To be published electronically in Russian by MOP/MOP-2.
2. Elaboration of compact and simplified version of the Resource Manual that focuses on the practical application of the Protocol.	Lead: secretariat with the assistance of an editorial group comprising, Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, EC, WHO and REC-CEE.	–		(2) Completed.
3. Preparation of two-page informal pamphlets on key issues in SEA practice (e.g., how to diversify alternatives, stakeholder engagement, assessment tools, and health and SEA).	Lead organization: the IAIA , with the support of WHO, SEA and health experts, and the secretariat.	Ongoing.		(2) Completed.
4. Workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol for countries in the ECE region and other Parties to the Protocol, in particular countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.	Lead country: organizing country (for training), with support of experts from Austria and Slovenia, and from REC-CEE and WHO invited to share their experience.	–		
(a)	Armenia	2013.		(3) Completed in November 2013.

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
(b)	Belarus	2013.		(3) Completed. Three local workshops held in October 2013.
(c)	Georgia	2014-2015.		(3) Funding confirmed (EaP-GREEN), implementation in 2014-2015.
(d)	Kazakhstan	-		(3) Cancelled. No funding identified.
(e)	Republic of Moldova	2014.		(3) Funding confirmed (EaP-GREEN), implementation in 2014.
(f)	Russian Federation	-		(3) Some funding from Sweden, initial discussions held. Possibly postponed to next intersessional period.
(g)	Ukraine	2013.		(3) Completed in September 2013.

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
5. Pilot SEAs in selected countries, in selected sectors.	Lead countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with WHO where relevant.		Possibly through the EnvSec Initiative with regard to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.	
(a)	Republic of Moldova	2014–2015.		(3) Funding confirmed (EaP-GREEN). Several plans and programmes at national and local level identified as possible subject for SEA. Implementation in 2014-2015.
(b)	Armenia	2014-2015.		(3) Funding confirmed (EaP-GREEN). Originally scheduled for 2013 but postponed at Armenia's request. Pilot subject and timing to be confirmed. Implementation in 2014-15.
(c)	Azerbaijan	2014–2015.		(3) Funding confirmed (EaP-GREEN). Pilot subject and timing to be confirmed. Implementation in 2014-15.
6. Preparation of a format for SEA notification.	Lead: secretariat with assistance of an editorial group comprising Austria and Germany.	–		(2) Completed (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/L.3). To be adopted by MOP/MOP-2.
7. Development of legislation on SEA.	Lead country: Republic of Moldova.	2013-2014.		(3) Completed.

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
8. Joint workshop on public participation in SEA in accordance with the Protocol and article 7 of the Aarhus Convention.	Lead: Bureau in collaboration with Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making under the Aarhus Convention.	29–30 October 2012.		(3) Completed.
Other activities (not listed in the workplan)				
Side event at 'Environment for Europe' Ministerial Conference, Kazakhstan.	Secretariat	21–23 September 2011		Completed.
Input to IAIA conference on SEA in Europe.	Secretariat	21–23 September 2011		Completed.
Providing input for 8th training workshop on transboundary EIA in Northeast Asia, Vladivostok (Russian Federation).	Secretariat	12–14 October 2011		Completed.
Input to Rio+20 preparatory process.	Secretariat	1–2 December 2011		Completed.
Technical advice to the Government of Ukraine to assist it in bringing its legislation into line with the provisions of the Convention.	EU	2012-2014		EU project ongoing (2012-end of 2014).

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
SEA training in Uzbekistan.	Secretariat, UNDP, GIZ	9–12 November 2011		Completed.
Convening a session on EIA of nuclear energy activities at IAIA Conference on Energy Future, Porto.	Secretariat	29 May–1 June 2012		Completed.
Promoting the Convention and its Protocol at a Conference on transboundary EIA in Eastern Asia Seoul.	Secretariat	13–15 June 2012		Completed.
Preparation of draft good practice recommendations on public participation in SEA.	Lead: Bureau with secretariat	2013		Completed (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/2).
Input to the Final Conference on EIA in Central Asia and Azerbaijan, in Dushanbe	CAREC, Switzerland secretariat	4-6 July 2013		Completed.
Translation of the SEA Resource Manual into Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian and the Simplified Resource Manual into Armenian and Azerbaijani	Secretariat, OSCE	August 2013	EnvSec Initiative	Completed.
Technical advice to the Government of Georgia to assist it in bringing its legislation into line with the provisions of the Convention.	Secretariat	2013	EaP-GREEN	Completed.

<i>Activities /sub-activities</i>	<i>Organizational arrangements / lead country</i>	<i>Time schedule</i>	<i>Budget / Funding</i>	<i>Status (and priority)</i>
Seminar on sharing good practices and tools for communication, cooperation and conflict resolution, in particular in the context of countries with no diplomatic relations	Committee Chair, EC, IAIA	November 2013	EC, ECE	Completed.
Technical advice to Armenia on improving legislation to implement the Convention	Undertaken by external consultant	2014	EAP-GREEN	On-going. Expected to be completed by MOP6.

Abbreviations: CAREC = Regional Environmental Centre for Caucasus; EBRD = European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; EC = European Commission; ECE = United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; EIA = environmental impact assessment; EnvSec Initiative = Environment and Security Initiative; EU = European Union; GIZ = Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit; IAIA = International Association for Impact Assessment; MOP6 = the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session; MOP/MOP2 = the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its second session; NGOs = non-governmental organizations; OSCE = Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; REC-CEE = Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe; SEA = strategic environmental assessment; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme; WHO = World Health Organization.

^a “Greening Economies in the European Union’s Eastern Partnership” (EaP-GREEN), a European Union-funded regional multi-stakeholder project.