

Project on improvement of legislation in the field of EIA and SEA

- **Harmonization of national legislation in accordance with the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA**
- **Draft of new Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan:**
 - **Chapter “Environmental Impact Assessment and Assessment Procedures in a Transboundary Context”**
 - **Chapter “Strategic Environmental Assessment”**
- **amendments to the secondary and sectoral legislation of Kazakhstan in the field of SEA**

Kazakhstan supports endorsement of EIA guidelines for Central Asia

Regarding the results of the project to improve the legislation in the field of EIA and SEA, let me, on behalf of the Ministry of Energy, report the following. The need for a detailed study of the SEA procedure is dictated by the desire of the Republic of Kazakhstan to strengthen state planning in order to increase the effectiveness of decisions taken and to strengthen cross-border cooperation with countries in environmental protection and economic development.

Thanks to the European Union, the Convention Secretariat and the OSCE Office in Astana as part of improving the environmental legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to bring them in line with international standards, national experts in close cooperation with international consultants developed amendments to the country's Environmental Code and sectoral legislation on SEA and EIA procedures, including in a transboundary context, in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol on SEA and the Espoo Convention.

As of today, the draft of the new Environmental Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan includes Chapters on "Environmental Impact Assessment", "Strategic Environmental Assessment" and "Evaluation Procedures in a Transboundary Context", as well as amendments to the secondary and sectoral legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan in SEA.

As part of the gradual transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a «green economy», the need for further consideration of accession to the UNECE Protocol on SEA remains important.

Along with improving national legislation, Kazakhstan supports the approval of the revised EIA Guidelines for Central Asia, developed with the support of the Secretariat and with the active assistance of the Central Asian countries.