



7th INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sub-Session: The role of Strategic Environmental Assessment in renewable energy planning

Friday, October 21, 2016, 14:00 – 15:15

Background

Use of renewable energy undoubtedly contributes to building a more sustainable future of our planet. It is also one of the key actions towards reaching diverse and ambitious goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, exploitation of renewable energy resources may also lead to certain environmental problems or risks regarding human health. Environmental assessments, including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), can be seen as tools which help to maximise environmental and social benefits resulting from renewable energy development, while avoiding or minimizing potential adverse effects.

The sub-session aims to illustrate application of SEA for various strategic documents emphasizing its role in facilitating investments in renewable energy through identifying and mitigating potential risks early in planning cycle, and thus streamlining project level development. The participants will also be invited to discuss the benefits of a harmonised SEA procedure set by the UNECE Protocol on SEA and the role of the UNECE secretariat in facilitating the use of SEA in the renewable energy sector.

Agenda

Facilitators: Ms. Olena Borysova, EBRD, Mr. Martin Smutny, UNECE consultant

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| 14.00 – 14.05 | Opening remarks
Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, the Renewable Energy Agency of Azerbaijan |
| 14.05 – 14.10 | Environmental context of renewable energy development

Gianluca Sambucini Sustainable Energy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| 14.10 – 14.20 | Strategic environmental assessment and the UNECE Protocol on SEA as a tools to facilitate investments in the renewable energy sector

Martin Smutny, consultant to the UNECE secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context |

14.20 – 14.40 **Benefits of SEA application in renewable energy sector**

SEA in hydropower development: examples from South East Europe
Ms. Marta Brkić, Managing Director, Dvokut ECRO d.o.o, Croatia

SEA of the National Strategy on the Use of Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources
2015 – 2020 of Azerbaijan

Ms. Aysel Babayeva, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan

Perspective of the International Financial Institutions: EBRD experience with SEA
Ms. Olena Borysova, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

14.40 – 15.10 **Panel discussion**

Speakers, audience and representatives of International Financial Institutions

Preliminary questions for discussion:

- How SEA can facilitate investments in specific renewable energy projects?
- What are the main inputs of SEA to reaching SDGs?
- Are there any specifics of efficient SEA application in renewable energy sector? If so, which ones?
- How can the UNECE Protocol on SEA and its secretariat can facilitate the application of SEA in renewable energy sector?'

15.10 – 15.15 **Conclusions**

Ms. Olena Borysova, EBRD, Mr. Martin Smutny, UNECE consultant