

## Event Report

*Round table*  
*«Prospects for the development of the «green economy»*  
*in the Republic of Kazakhstan:*  
*Strategic Environmental Assessment»*



*6 April 2017*  
*Astana, Kazakhstan*

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## 1. Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) effectively promotes sustainable development by mainstreaming the environment into economic development at a national and local level. SEA is a well-established, practical and efficient planning and environmental governance tool set out in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Protocol on SEA to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). SEA, in particular, allows for the identification of the most sustainable and cost-effective strategic development alternatives, which can attract new investments alongside protecting the environment. SEA also helps strengthen the country's environmental governance through fostering transparency and consultation with relevant stakeholders and the public before plans and programmes are approved. SEA in a transboundary context can also facilitate regional cooperation on environmental matters. The Republic of Kazakhstan ratified the Convention in 2000. Since then the country has been continued improving its legislation by implementing strategic environmental assessment.

Round table «Prospects for the development of the «green economy» in the Republic of Kazakhstan: Strategic Environmental Assessment» was held on 6 April 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan. It was organized by the UNECE, the Committee on Ecology and Environment of the Majilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana and the Coalition for “green” economy and development “G-Global”.

The aim of the event was to discuss the feasibility of developing the strategic environmental assessment system in Kazakhstan, to present the final version of the Review of Kazakh national legislation regarding the applicability of the provisions of the UNECE Protocol on SEA, and to assess the benefits of application of SEA in Kazakhstan.

The round table gathered 66 participants and was targeted at the representatives of the following institutions:

- Committee on Ecology and Environment of the Majilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry for Investments and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan

as well as representatives of international organizations, business and public associations.

## 2. Workshop objectives

The key aim of the Round table was to provide the participants with an opportunity to:

1. Review of implementation of the UNECE Protocol on SEA across different countries.
2. Present the overview of Kazakh national legislation regarding the applicability of the provisions of the UNECE Protocol on SEA.
3. Discuss the Environmental Assessment System and perspective of the implementation of the SEA in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

## 3. Approach and methodology

The workshop utilized a highly interactive design. Each theoretical block was followed by opened discussion.

## 4. Summary of the Workshop



M.Mirzagaliev, Vice-minister of Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan opened the event by welcoming the participants. J-L. Lavroff, head of Operations Section, European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan, in his welcoming note thanked the partners from the UNDP, UNECE, and the OSCE for its support in implementing the Strategic Impact Assessment in Kazakhstan.

Ms. Elena Santer, UNECE secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA, gave an introduction to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and presented main findings of the Review of the Legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan Related to the Application of the Protocol on SEA. She highlighted the main benefits and the key principles of efficient application of SEA.

Then, Mr. V. Kolar-Planinsic, Head of Strategic Environmental assessment Division, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, shared experience of application of strategic environmental assessment in Slovenia. He gave an overview of plans, programmes, benefits, and managerial aspects of SEA process.

Following this, Mr. J. Jendroska, Managing Partner, Jendroska Jerzmanski Bar & Partners, Professor of law at Opole University, Poland presented experience in developing strategic environmental assessment systems and related legislative framework in the EU countries.

During the next session, Ms. O. Borisova, project manager of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (via Webex) shared experience of SEA application by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Kazakhstan in the energy sector.

Mr. A. Alimbayev, deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, gave an overview of practice of Ecological Expertise in Kazakhstan.

Following this, Ms. B. Yessekina, member of the Green economy council under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, head of SREC Green Academy, addressed the participants with a presentation on perspectives of SEA implementation in the strategic planning system in Kazakhstan.

At the following session, Mr. Zh.Nurbekov, director of the Waste Management Department of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, gave a presentation, highlighting extended producers responsibility, as an effective instrument of the "green economy".

The session concluded with interactive discussion on feasibility of the SEA system development in the Republic of Kazakhstan.



## 5. Workshop conclusions

The workshop was carried out as it had been planned and, following the prepared agenda, it fulfilled its objectives. The following conclusions can be summarized from the discussions held during the event:

- There are prerequisites at the state planning system of the Republic of Kazakhstan for implementation of SEA.
- SEA gives an opportunity for addressing cross-sector issues (such as ecological and social aspects) at the planning stage, especially for regional programmes.
- A cross-sector analysis for comprehensive and effective implementation of SEA principles into national legislation is required.
- Training programmes and workshops are needed for relevant state authorities (the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry for Investments and

Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan) with aim to increase their knowledge and competence in SEA.

- Implementation and examination of SEA in one of recently developed state programmes is recommended.

## 6. Public visibility of the event

The information about the round table has been spread to reach a wider range of the interested public via the following sources:

- Scientific Research and Education Center “Green Academy”  
<http://www.green-academy.kz/en/reports/item/391-kazakhstan-discusses-legal-implementation-of-the-protocol-on-strategic-environmental-assessment.html>
- UNECE website  
<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/environmental-assessment/meetings-and-events/environmental-impact-assessment/workshops-eap-green/2017/round-table-prospects-for-the-development-of-the-green-economy-in-the-republic-of-kazakhstan-strategic-environmental-assessment/doc.html>
- OSCE Programme Office in Astana  
<https://www.osce.org/programme-office-in-astana/310001>
- Coalition for “green” economy and development “G-Global”  
<https://greenkaz.org/index.php/press-centr/novosti-koalicii/item/1446-kruglyj-stol-na-temu-perspektivy-razvitiya-zelenoj-ekonomiki-v-kazahstane-strategicheskaya-ekologicheskaya-otsenka>
- kaztrk.kz  
<https://kaztrk.kz/news/ekonomika/elimizde-zhasyl-ekonomikany-damytudyn-zhana-tetikteri-talqylandy-16892>

## Annex 1: Agenda of the Roundtable

### Agenda of the Roundtable “Prospects for development of “Green Economy” in the Republic of Kazakhstan: Strategic environmental assessment”

April 6, 2017  
«Astana Marriott» hotel (hall «Balkhash», 3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

<b>09.00-09.30</b>	Registration, welcome coffee, press briefing
<b>09.30-10.00</b>	<p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> G. Schegelskiy - Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Committee of Ecology and Environmental management of Mazhilis of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan;</p> <p>M.Mirzagaliev – Vice-minister of Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan;</p> <p>J-L. Lavroff - Head of Operations Section, European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan;</p> <p>M. Altangerel - UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Kazakhstan;</p> <p>G. Szabó –Ambassador, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana;</p> <p>E.Santer - Environmental Officer of the Espoo Convention Secretariat, UNECE.</p>
<b>10.00-11.30</b>	<p><b>Platform 1. UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and international experience in SEA application</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> G. Schegelskiy - Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental management of Mazhilis of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>Co-moderator:</i> I. Unzhakova - Parliamentarian, member of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental management of Mazhilis of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>"Introduction to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and main findings of the Review of the Legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan Related to the Application of the Protocol on SEA"</i> E. Santer - Environmental Officer of the Espoo Convention Secretariat, UNECE;</p> <p><i>"Application of strategic environmental assessment in Slovenia: SEA process for plans and programmes, benefits, and managerial aspects"</i> V. Kolar-Planinsic - Head of Strategic Environmental assessment Division, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia</p> <p><i>"Experience in developing strategic environmental assessment systems and related legislative framework in the EU countries"</i></p>



	<p>J. Jendroska - Managing Partner, Jendroska Jerzmanski Bar &amp; Partners, Professor of law at Opole University, Poland</p> <p>Questions and answers, completion of presentations</p>
<b>11.30-12.00</b>	<b>Coffee-break</b>
<b>12.00-13.00</b>	<p><b>Platform 2. Environmental assessment system in Kazakhstan and perspectives for SEA application</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> G. Schegelskiy - Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental management of Mazhilis of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>Co-moderator:</i> K. Karaken - Parliamentarian, member of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental management of Mazhilis of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>"Experience of SEA Application by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Kazakhstan in the energy sector"</i></p> <p>O. Borisova - Project Manager of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (via Webex);</p> <p><i>"Practice of Ecological Expertise in Kazakhstan"</i></p> <p>A. Alimbayev - Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.</p> <p><i>«Perspectives of SEA implementation in the strategic planning system in Kazakhstan»</i></p> <p>B. Yessekina – member of the Green economy council under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Head of SREC Green Academy.</p> <p>Discussion on feasibility of the SEA system development in the Republic of Kazakhstan</p>
<b>13.00 – 13.30</b>	<p><b>Platform 3. Extended producers responsibility (importers)</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> G. Schegelskiy - Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental management of Mazhilis of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p><i>Co-moderator:</i> K.Karaken - Parliamentarian, member of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental management of Mazhilis of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p><b>“Extended producers responsibility (importers) EPR, as an effective instrument of the "green economy"</b></p> <p>Zh.Nurbekov - Director of the Waste Management Department of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Discussion on development of the ERP system in Kazakhstan</p>
<b>13.30-14.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>