



UNECE

INFORMAL RECORD OF THE MAIN DECISIONS TAKEN

Meetings of the Parties

the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA

INTERMEDIARY SESSIONS

Geneva | Palais de Nations | 5 -7 February 2019



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs Intermediary sessions

- **Elected Chairs**
- **Noted report on credentials**
- **Welcomed Greece's recent ratification of Convention amendments**
- **Noted planned ratifications, with those by Belgium and Azerbaijan of the 1st amendment being most advanced**
- **Again urged Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, FYROM, Ukraine and UK to ratify 1st amendment; and, unless done, submit a progress report to the Bureau by end May**
- **Also urged Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, FYROM, Ukraine and the UK to ratify the 2nd amendment**



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs Intermediary sessions



- **Urged Signatories: Belgium, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Republic of Moldova, UK to ratify the Protocol and invited beneficiaries of technical assistance on SEA to accede to it**
- **Welcomed Serbia's ratification of the Bucharest Agreement in December 2018**
- **Encouraged ratification of that Agreement by other countries in that sub-region (BiH, Croatia, Greece)**



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs
Intermediary sessions

- **Adopted decisions IS/1, IS/1 a-c and IS/1 e-g in consensus**
- **At EU's request, a vote on draft decision IS/1d, as amended by the EU, was taken. The decision was adopted with 30 votes.**
- **At the request of Switzerland, a vote on draft decision IS/1h, as amended by EU, was taken. The decision was adopted with 31 votes.**
- **Noted some inconsistencies in Russian translations of the draft decisions and asked these to be rectified in the adopted decisions**



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs
Intermediary sessions



- **Adopted decision IS/2**
- **Noted that Sweden might join the ad hoc group on the LTE of NPPs (tbc)**
- **Invited delegations to financially support participation of one expert from Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine to the next (March 2019) meeting of the ad hoc group**
- **Thanked Portugal, the Netherlands and Austria for offering to host the upcoming ad hoc group's meetings.**



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs
Intermediary sessions



- **Adopted decision IS/3 – endorsing Revised Guidelines on transboundary EIA for Central Asian countries**
- **Thanked Switzerland for financing the revision of the Guidelines**
- **Noted comments from Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Uzbekistan; Switzerland and the EU in support of the Guidelines**



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs Intermediary sessions



- **Extended the chairmanship of the current Bureau Chair, Mr. Kremlis, until the next MOP sessions in 2020**



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs Intermediary sessions



- Noted reports by Austria, Denmark, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Romania, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan as well as EU, IAIA, OSCE and the secretariat on workplan implementation
- Noted reports by the Society & Environment on related activities
- Noted reports by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and the secretariat on legislative developments



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs
Intermediary sessions



- **Reminded all Convention and Protocol Parties to report on their implementation no later than by 31 March 2019**
- **Thanked Canada for its offer to translate into English the responses to the questionnaire on implementation that will be provided in French**
- **Invited Russian speaking Parties/stakeholders to offer translating the responses in Russian into English**



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs Intermediary sessions



- **Invited further pledges by Bureau meeting (June 2019) or latest by Working Group's meeting in November – to cover the (secretariat's staff costs in the) extended intersessional period (June-December 2020)**
- **Invited in addition the Bureau to propose to the WG-8 how to fill the budgetary gap**
- **Thanked Client Earth for organizing a side-event on transboundary EIA of coal and lignite activities**



Main outcomes

Espoo / SEA MOPs
Intermediary sessions



- **Invited the secretariat to finalize the report under Bureau's guidance**
- **Decided to hold next sessions (MOP-8 and MOP/MOP-4) in 8-11 December 2020 in Geneva (unless host country identified – any offers invited by WG-8 in Nov 2019);**