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**Economic Commission for Europe**

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention   
on Environmental Impact Assessment   
in a Transboundary Context

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

**Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment  
and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Tenth meeting**

Geneva, 1–3 December 2021

Item 3 of the provisional agenda  
Compliance and implementation

**Template for the report of the European Union under the Protocol in 2019–2021**

Proposal by the Implementation Committee

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| *Summary* |
| This document contains a template for the report of the European Union under the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in the period 2019–2021 prepared by the Implementation Committee taking into account the outcome of the Committee’s consultation with the European Union in July 2021. The Committee prepared the template as mandated by decision IV/5 to fit the nature and the competencies of the European Union with a view to facilitating its reporting under articles 13(4) and 14(7) of the Protocol. The template also reflects the objectives of the 2021–2023 workplan (decision VIII/2–IV/2, annex I, item II.B)) and f the long-term strategy under the Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/3– ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/3, item II.A.9), notably those related to maximizing the usefulness of the reporting by the Parties as a source of information for better monitoring the progress achieved and remaining challenges, collecting and disseminating good practice and to better informing the Committee on potential non-compliance.  The Working Group will be informed of the reporting template to be transmitted to the European Union at the end of December 2021 for it to complete by 30 April 2022. |
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I. Background

A. Reporting obligations under the Protocol and their purpose

1. In accordance with articles 14(7) and 13(4) of the Protocol, the Parties to the Protocol have a legal obligation to report on their implementation of the Treaty. The reporting allows the Parties to keep under continuous review the Treaty’s implementation as set out in article 14(4) of the Protocol, including, among other things, to:

(a) Review policies for and methodological approaches to strategic environmental assessment (SEA) with a view to further improving the procedures set out in the Protocol (article 14(4(a)) of the Protocol); and

(b) Exchange information regarding the use of strategic environmental assessment and in the implementation of the Protocol (14(4(b)) of the Protocol).

2. The Meeting of the Parties have also consistently recognized that regular reporting by each Party provides important information that facilitates the review of compliance of the Protocol, but also provides useful information to other countries within and beyond the UNECE region that facilitates their efforts to implement and accede to the Treaty[[1]](#footnote-2).

3. At their last session the Meeting of the Parties also decided to use the reporting mechanism to, among other things, maximize usefulness of the review of implementation as a source of information to better monitor progress achieved and remaining challenges, to collect and disseminate good practice and to better inform the Committee on potential non-compliance. This would contribute to achieving the key objective of the newly adopted long-term strategy of full and effective treaty implementation (see ECE/MP.EIA/2020/3 ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/3. Item II.A.9) and the 2021-2023 workplan (see decision VIII/2–IV/2, annex, item 2B)).

B. Reporting format

4. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol has consistently requested that each Party “complete questionnaires as reports on their implementation”[[2]](#footnote-3) and mandated the Implementation Committee to develop or adjust such questionnaires. During each reporting round, Parties have been requested to repeat the information on their relevant legislative, regulatory and other appropriate measures in force for the implementation of the Protocol as well as to indicate any changes that may have occurred during the reporting period; and, in the second part of the questionnaires, describe their experience in the Protocol’s practical application.

C. Approach of the European Union to reporting on its implementation of the Protocol until 2018

5. Since 2012, under the regular review of Parties’ implementation of the Protocol, the European Union, has repeatedly indicated that “being a regional economic integration organization, it felt it inappropriate to report”[[3]](#footnote-4). The European Union refereed to its declaration made upon signature and approval of the Protocol that it already adopted legal instruments governed by the Protocol.[[4]](#footnote-5) It explained that its primary legislation did not confer any competence on the European Union to perform strategic environmental assessment for plans and programmes. Therefore, the European Union could not provide information as regards the questions asked in the questionnaires on the implementation of the Protocol[[5]](#footnote-6). Instead, it sent notes of various formats briefly describing recent changes to the European Union legislation and recently developed studies and guidelines on SEA[[6]](#footnote-7). That approach, however, was not considered to constitute reporting under the Protocol, as such.

D. Mandate to develop reporting templates for the European Union

6. Consequently, by decision IV/5the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol requested the Committee to prepare, in consultation with the European Union, represented by the European Commission, the reporting template for the European Union that fits its nature and competencies and that will facilitate its reporting under articles 13(4) and 14(7) of the Protocol. [[7]](#footnote-8)

E. Process to prepare the templates

7. As mandated by the Meeting of the Parties, the Committee, at its fiftieth session (Geneva, 4-7 May 2021) prepared the draft template for the European Union to report under the Protocol. On 11 June 2021, the Committee shared the draft template with the European Commission for its comments and views. On 8 July 2021, further to the Bureau’s recommendation, the Committee also held an informal online discussion with the European Union.

8. When finalizing the reporting template, at its fifty-first session (Geneva (hybrid), 4–7 October 2021), the Committee considered the views and comments that the European Union provided both during the informal discussion and, on 16 July 2021, in writing. In particular, the Committee took into account substantive textual comments provided by the European Union, noting its suggestion to limit the reporting templates to the information that it has been providing so far.

F. Considerations of the Committee when preparing the template

9. As mentioned above, the Committee prepared the reporting template considering the status and competences of the European Union as a regional economic integration organization with the aim to assist the European Union to fulfil its reporting obligations under articles 13(4) and 14 (7) of the Protocol. In doing so, the Committee considered the related objectives of the 2021-2023 workplan and the long-term strategy as specified in paragraph 3 above. Furthermore, to ensure the consistency and comparability of the data to be collected and analysed when preparing the 2019-2021 review of implementation, the Committee, to the extent feasible, harmonized the reporting template with the related questionnaire for the States Parties. In the light of the above considerations, the reporting template:

(a) Addresses the conclusion that the previous approach by the European Union to provide brief information in its various notes does not qualify as reporting and that more substantive information on the measures taken by it to implement the Protocol is needed to keep the Treaty’s implementation under review further to article 14(4) of the Protocol, in particular, with regard to existing policies and approaches to SEA to further improve the procedures under the Treaty and with a view to exchanging information (see sub-paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) above). The Committee considered that, for that purpose, the reporting on the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken by the European Union for the issues governed by the Protocol, including case law, was particularly relevant.

(b) Does not request the European Union to repeat the information provided by the State Parties to the Protocol that are Member States of the European Union. It focuses on identifying how the Protocol is implemented through the legislative, regulatory and other appropriate measures adopted by the European Union;

(c) Like the questionnaires for States Parties’ reporting, is designed to provide the basis for regular and continuous reporting on the Protocol’s implementation. Thus, it allows for first establishing a current baseline, – including, for example, that, at present, there are no plans or programme developed at the European Union level requiring an SEA procedure, – and the monitoring of possible changes in that status in the future. In this context, the Committee recalls its previous opinion that “Pursuant to article 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, all three areas (transport, energy, and fisheries) of the plans and programmes under the Committee’s consideration, belong to the competences shared between the European Union and the Member States. Subsequently, it would be erroneous to conclude that only the Member States, through the implementation of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, were solely responsible for implementation of the Protocol for those plans and programmes and that the European Union had no role in this regard. Should the plan or programme be prepared and adopted at the European Union level, including by bodies established or designed by it according to the European Union law, the Member States while following the plan or programme adopted previously by a European Union body may subsequently have a reduced scope for their activities”[[8]](#footnote-9).

10. In addition, the reporting template allows the European Union to report on application of article 13 of the Protocol concerning policies and legislation. To this end, the Committee points out that it previously examined characteristics of certain plans and programmes adopted at the European Union level.[[9]](#footnote-10) In view of the Committee, those documents should be regarded as policies falling under article 13 of the Protocol. Subsequently, obligations deriving from that article, including on reporting under article 13 (4), should apply.[[10]](#footnote-11)

11. Furthermore, one question in the reporting template is dedicated to discrepancies between the European Union SEA Directive and the Protocol, identified by the Committee at its forty-fourth session (Geneva, 12-15 March 2019)[[11]](#footnote-12), and to steps taken or to be taken by the European Union to address those discrepancies. Consequently, the Committee will return to the consideration of that issue once the 2019-2021 reporting cycle was completed.

12. Until to date, the European Union has provided no details concerning the established legislative, regulatory and other appropriate measures, such as the SEA Directive[[12]](#footnote-13), for the implementation of the Protocol. The Committee recognizes that completing the reporting template for the first time will require some time and effort from the European Union. However, based on the experiences of other Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations, it wishes to assure the European Union that this exercise will require significantly less work in the subsequent reporting rounds.

II. Template for the report of the European Union under the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in the period 2019–2021

Information on the focal point for the Protocol

1. Name and contact information:

Information on the point of contact for the Protocol

2.Name and contact information (if different from above):

Information on the person responsible for preparing the report

3. Regional economic organization: (European Union):

4. Surname:

5. Forename:

6. Institution:

7. Postal address:

8. Email address:

9. Telephone number:

10. Date on which report was completed:

Information about the membership and competences of the European Union and its Member States[[13]](#footnote-14)

11. Please describe the competences and respective responsibilities of the European Union for the performance of the obligations under the Protocol as compared to those of its Members States.

Part one   
Current legal and administrative framework for the implementation of the Protocol

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| In this part, please describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken by the European Union to implement the provisions of the Protocol at the European Union level.  This part should describe the framework for the Protocol’s implementation, and not experience in the application of the Protocol.  Please do not reproduce the text of the legislation itself but summarize and explicitly refer to the relevant provisions transposing the text of the Protocol. Please refer to relevant case law where relevant. |
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Article 3  
General provisions

I.3.1 According to article 3(1) of the Protocol: *“Each Party shall take the necessary legislative, regulatory and other appropriate measures to implement the provisions of this Protocol with a clear, transparent framework”*. Please provide the main legislative, regulatory and other measures that have been adopted at the level of the European Union to implement the Protocol.

I.3.2 Are you aware of any discrepancies of the current legislative framework adopted at the level of the European Union with the Protocol?

No

Yes

Article 4  
Field of application concerning plans and programmes

I.4.1 Which plans and programmes referred to in article 4 (2) - (4) of the Protocol are set out in the European Union legislation, both for development at the European Union level and for development at level of its Member States?

Please list plans and programmes, indicating the division of responsibilities between the European Union and its Members States, and provide references to the relevant provisions of the European Union legislation:

Agriculture

Forestry

Fisheries

Energy

Industry, including mining

Transport

Regional development

Waste management

Water management

Telecommunication

Tourism

Town and country planning

Land use

Other (in particular falling under articles 4 (3) – (4))

I.4.2 Explain how the European Union defines whether a plan or programme *“sets the framework for future development consent”* (art. 4 (2)):

I.4.3 Explain how the term *“plans and programmes ... which determine the use of small areas at local level”* (art. 4 (4)) is interpreted:

I.4.4 Explain how you identify in your legislation a “minor modification” to a plan or programme (art. 4 (4)):

Article 5  
Screening

I.5.1 According to article 5 (1): *“Each Party shall determine whether plans and programmes referred to in article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4, are likely to have significant environmental, including health, effects either through a case-by-case examination or by specifying types of plans and programmes or by combining both approaches.”* How does the European Union determine which plans and programmes referred to in article 4 (3)–(4) should be subject to a strategic environmental assessment?

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of the Member States of the European Union.

I.5.2 According to article 5(2), each Party shall ensure that the environmental and health authorities are consulted during screening. Does the European Union provide for consultation with authorities during screening? Please specify separately for environmental and health authorities and provide reference to the relevant provisions.

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of the Member States of the European Union.

I.5.3 According to article 5(3): *“To the extent appropriate, each Party shall endeavour to provide opportunities for the participation of the public concerned in the screening of plans and programmes under this article.”* How does the European Union ensure that opportunities for the public concerned to participate in screening of plans and programmes are provided?

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of the Member States of the European Union:

Article 6  
Scoping

I.6.1 According to article 6 (1): *“Each Party shall establish arrangements for the determination of the relevant information to be included in the environmental report in accordance with article 7, paragraph 2.”* How does the European Union determine what the relevant information to be included in the environmental report is?

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of the Member States of the European Union:

I.6.2 According to article 6(2), each Party shall ensure that the environmental and health authorities are consulted during scoping. Does the European Union provide for consultation with authorities at the scoping stage? Please specify separately for environmental and health authorities and provide reference to the relevant provisions.

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of the Member States of the European Union:

I.6.3 According to article 6(3): *“To the extent appropriate, each Party shall endeavour to provide opportunities for the participation of the public concerned when determining the relevant information to be included in the environmental report.”* Does the European Union provide for opportunities for the public concerned to participate in scoping of plans and programmes?

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of the Member States of the European Union:

Article 7  
Environmental report

I.7.1 According to article 7 (2): *“The environmental report shall, in accordance with the determination under article 6, identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental, including health, effects of implementing the plan or programme and its reasonable alternatives.”*

Please specify, how does the European Union determine “reasonable alternatives”:

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of the Member States of the European Union:

I.7.2 According to article 7 (3): “*Each Party shall ensure that environmental reports are of sufficient quality to meet the requirements of this Protocol.”* Does the European Union include any provisions for ensuring sufficient quality of the environmental reports prepared at the European Union level, if any, and the level of its Member States?

Article 8  
Public participation

I.8.1. According to article 8 (2): *“Each Party, using electronic media or other appropriate means, shall ensure the timely public availability of the draft plan or programme and the environmental report.”*

(a) For the plans and programmes to be adopted at the Member State level, does the European Union legislation provide for notifying the public and making the draft plans and programmes and the environmental report available to it? Please specify and provide reference to the relevant provision of the legislation.

(b) For the plans and programmes to be adopted at the European Union level, if any, how does the European Union notify the public and make the draft plans and programmes and the environmental report available?

I.8.2. According to article 8 (3): “Each Party shall ensure that the public concerned, including relevant non-governmental organizations, is identified for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 4.”

(a) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of its Member States, does the European Union legislation provide for identifying the public concerned? Please specify and provide reference to the relevant provision of the legislation.

(b) For the plans and programmes to be adopted at the European Union level, if any, how does the European Union identify the public concerned?

I.8.3. According to article 8(4): *“Each Party shall ensure that the public referred to in paragraph 3 has the opportunity to express its opinion on the draft plan or programme and the environmental report within a reasonable time frame.”*

(a) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of its Member States, does the European Union legislation provide opportunities for the public concerned to express its opinion on the draft plan and programme and the environmental report? Please specify and provide reference to the relevant provision of the legislation.

(b) For the plans and programmes to be adopted at the European Union level, if any, how can the public concerned express its opinion on the draft plan and programme and the environmental report?

I.8.4. According to article 8 (4): *“The public* [concerned, including relevant non-governmental organizations*] … has the opportunity to express its opinion within a reasonable time frame.”* Does the European Union have a definition (for example a number of days ) of the term *“within a reasonable time frame”*? Please specify:

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of its Member States

Article 9  
Consultation with environmental and health authorities

I.9.1. According to article 9 (3): *“Each Party shall ensure that the authorities referred to in paragraph 1 are given, in an early, timely and effective manner, the opportunity to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the environmental report.”* Does the European Union provide for consultation with environmental and health authorities? Please provide specific references to relevant provisions concerning each of these authorities, separately.

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of the EU Member States

Article 10  
Transboundary consultations

I.10.1 Article 10 specifies the requirements regarding transboundary consultations. Does the European Union provide for transboundary consultations? Please specify and provide reference to the relevant provisions regarding the timing for the notification and the information to be provided to the affected Parties, including the timeframes for the response to the notification and provision of comments. Are there any provisions regarding the detailed arrangements referred to in article 10(4) of the Protocol.

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by EU legislation and developed and adopted at the level of its Member States

Article 11  
Decision

I.11.1 Article 11 (1): *“Each Party shall ensure that when a plan or programme is adopted due account is taken of (a) [t]he conclusions of the environmental report; (b) [t]he measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate the adverse effects identified in the environmental report; and (c) [t]he comments received in accordance with articles 8 to 10.”* How does the European Union provide for implementation of article 11 (1)? Please specify and provide references to the relevant provisions:

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of its Member States

I.11.2 According to article 11 (2): *“Each Party shall ensure that, when a plan or programme is adopted, the public, the authorities …and the Parties consulted …are informed, and that the plan or programme is made available to them together with a statement summarizing how the environmental, including health, considerations have been integrated into it, how the comments received … have been taken into account and the reasons for adopting it in the light of the reasonable alternatives considered.”* How does the European Union provide for implementation of article 11 (2)? Please specify and provide references to the relevant provisions:

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of its Member States

Article 12  
Monitoring

I.12. According to article 12(1)–(2) *“1. Each Party shall monitor the significant environmental, including health, effects of the implementation of the plans and programmes. …2. “The results of the monitoring undertaken shall be made available …to the authorities …and to the public.”* Describe the requirements for monitoring the significant environmental, including health, effects of the implementation of the plans and programmes:

(a) For the plans/ and programmes to be developed and adopted at the European Union level, if any

(b) For the plans/ and programmes provided for by the European Union legislation and developed and adopted at the level of its Member States

Article 13   
Policies and legislation

I.13. According to article 13 (1): *“Each Party shall endeavour to ensure that environmental, including health, concerns are considered and integrated to the extent appropriate in the preparation of its proposals for policies and legislation that are likely to have significant effects on the environment, including health.”*

Please specify, how the consideration and integration of environmental, including health, concerns and consideration of appropriate principles and elements of the Protocol (e.g. public participation) is ensured at the European Union level during the preparation of policies and legislation?

Part two  
Practical application during the period 2019–2021

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| Please note that this part is focusing on issues identified in the third review of implementation[[14]](#footnote-15) of the Protocol by Parties and those issues that have been identified as priorities by Parties in the 2021-2023 workplan. [[15]](#footnote-16) It also addresses the objectives of the Long term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol related to *“adapting the reviews [of implementation] to maximise their usefulness as a source of information, highlight progress achieved, draw attention to areas that need improvement, disseminate best practice and inform the Implementation Committee of potential non-compliance”*. |
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1. Experience with the strategic environment assessment procedure in 2019–2021

II.2. Has the European Union experienced substantial difficulties in interpreting particular terms (or particular articles) in the Protocol? Please specify.

II.3. Does the European Union provide any guidance on how to conduct a strategic environment assessment procedure?

2. Experience regarding guidance in 2019–2021

II.5. Are you aware of any use of the online *Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment*[[16]](#footnote-17) (ECE/MP.EIA/17)? Please provide information regarding that experience:

II.6 Are you aware of any use of the *Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation in Strategic Environmental Assessment*[[17]](#footnote-18) adopted by the Meeting of the Parties? Please provide information regarding that experience:

3. Strategic environmental assessment as a tool for attaining Sustainable Development Goals

Please indicate whether, in the view of the European Union, strategic environmental assessments can be considered to have contributed to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and their specific targets:

Yes, (certain) strategic environmental assessments significantly contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

Yes, (certain) strategic environmental assessments somewhat contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

No, there is no evidence that strategic environmental assessment contributes to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in practice

If “Yes”, please list the most relevant Sustainable Development Goals[[18]](#footnote-19) (and their targets) and provide an example(s) of how strategic environmental assessment has contributed to their achievement

3. Suggested improvements to the report

II.7. Please provide suggestions for how this report may be improved:

1. Decision II/1, preamble para. 5 – 6; Decision III/1, preamble paras. 5 – 6; Decision IV/5, preamble paras. 4 – 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Decision II/1, preamble para. 8; Decision III/1, preamble para. 7; Decision IV/5, para. 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/3, para. 5; ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/9, para. 5; ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/14, para. 7; ECE/MP.EIA/32, [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/Review\_2013-2015/Completed\_SEA/EU\_SEA\_2013-2015\_07.12.2015.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. See for example: https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/Review\_2016-2018/3rd\_review\_of\_the\_Protocol/Questionnaire\_2016\_2018\_SEA\_Protocol\_EU\_reply2019.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Notes of the European Union regarding the reporting on its implementation of the Protocol are available at the Treaties’ website as follows:

   2013-2015: <https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/Review_2013-2015/Completed_EIA/EU_EIA_2012-2015_07.12.2015.pdf>

   2016-2018: <https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/Review_2016-2018/6th_review_of_Convention/Questionnaire_2016-2018Espoo_Convention_EU_reply2019.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3, decision IV/5, para.6; [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2020/4, Annex, para. 49. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Those included: (a) Investment plans pursuant to the Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 concerning the rail transport sector; (b)The Policy Framework for Climate and Energy in the Period from 2020 to 2030 pursuant to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM/2014/015 final); (c)The Community-wide network development plan pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 714/2019 on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity; (d)The total allowable catches and multi-annual plans pursuant to the Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy; and (e)Work plans pursuant to the Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 on guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. See ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2020/4, Annex, paras. 50 – 53 and 56. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2019/2, para. 103 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, Official Journal of the European Communities, L 197 (2001), pp. 30–37. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. As at September 2021, the following Member States of the European Union are Parties to the Protocol: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. Belgium, France, Greece and Ireland are not Parties. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/14. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. Available from <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/resource-manual-support-application-sea-protocol> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. Available from https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/Publications/2016/Good\_Practice\_Recommendations\_on\_Public\_Participation\_in\_Strategic\_Environmental\_Assessment/1514364\_E\_Espoo\_web.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. In 2017, the Meetings of the Parties acknowledged that the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/7–III/6, Minsk Declaration, para. 7). Selected examples of targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that strategic environmental assessment could help to implement include the following (see informal document to the fifth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 11–15 April 2016):

    (a) Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.9 and 3.d);

    (b) Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (targets 6.3, 6.5–6.6 and 6.a–6.b);

    (c) Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (targets 7.2 and 7.a);

    (d) Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.4)

    (e) Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (targets 9.1 and 9.4);

    (f) Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.3–11.4, 11.6 and 11.a–11.b);

    (g) Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.2 and 12.4–12.5);

    (h) Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (targets 13.1–13.3);

    (i) Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (target 14.1);

    (j) Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (targets 15.1 and 15.4);

    (k) Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (targets 16.6–16.7 and 16.10);

    (l) Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (targets 17.13 and 17.16–17.17).   
    For more details see informal document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at http://staging2.unece.org.net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG2.5\_April2016/Informal\_document\_16\_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16\_\_SDG\_Mapping.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)