

Questionnaire for the report of MALTA on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in the period 2019–2021

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Part one

Current legal and administrative framework for the implementation of the Convention

In this part, please provide the information requested, or revise any information relative to the previous report. Describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention. This part should describe the framework for your country's implementation, and not its experience in the application of the Convention.

Please do not reproduce the text of the legislation itself but summarize and explicitly refer to the relevant provisions transposing the text of the Convention (for example, Environmental Impact Assessment Law of the Republic of ..., article 5 (3) of Government Resolution No. ..., para. ... item...)

Article 1

Definitions

I.1.1. Is the definition of the term “impact” for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as that contained in article 1 (vii)?

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes, with some minor differences (please explain the differences): The definition of "impact" as laid down in Regulation 2 of the Maltese Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (S.L. 549.46) has the same meaning as "effect". The definition of "effect" in the said Regulations is essentially similar and is more detailed.
- (c) No, there are major differences (please explain the differences):
- (d) The term “impact” is not defined in the legislation

Your comments: The definition is essentially the same. It also provides a reference to direct, indirect, secondary and cumulative effects on the environment.

I.1.2. Is the definition of the term “transboundary impact” for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as that contained in article 1 (viii)?

- (a) Yes, the same
- (b) Yes, with some minor differences (please explain the differences): The definition of ‘transboundary impact’ in the Maltese EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) makes reference to any impact which takes place wholly or partly in a state caused by a project or intervention situated wholly or partially in another state.
- (c) No, there are major differences (please explain the differences):
- (d) The term “transboundary impact” is not defined in the legislation

Your comments:

I.1.3. Please specify how the term “major change” is defined in your national legislation:

- (a) It is not defined
- (b) By using thresholds (Please explain:)
- (c) By using criteria (Please explain: There is no specific definition of ‘major change’ in the Maltese EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46). However, any changes or extensions

to approved projects or reactivation of projects would need to be screened for EIA requirements in accordance with Schedule I, as per Sections 13.0.1.1, 13.0.2.1 and 13.0.2.2.

(d) On a case-by-case basis (Please explain:)

Your comments:

I.1.4. How do you identify the public “of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected”? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) Based on the geographical location of the proposed project

(b) By making the information available to all members of the public and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned

(c) By other means (please specify):

Your comments: Both (a) and (b) apply

I.1.5. How do you determine the “significance” of the environmental impact of the activities falling within the scope of the Convention?¹ Please specify (more than one option may apply), providing relevant explanations:

(a) By establishing threshold levels (please explain In line with the provisions laid down in Schedule I of the EIA Regulations, S.L. 549.46)

(b) By applying criteria related to the location of proposed activities (please explain In line with the provisions laid down in Schedule III of the EIA Regulations, S.L. 549.46)

(c) By applying criteria related to the nature of proposed activities (please explain In line with the provisions laid down in Schedule III of the EIA Regulations, S.L. 549.46)

(d) By applying criteria related to the size of proposed activities (please explain In line with the provisions laid down in Schedule III of the EIA Regulations, S.L. 549.46)

(e) By applying criteria related to the effects of proposed activities (please explain In line with the provisions laid down in Schedule III of the EIA Regulations, S.L. 549.46)

(f) Other (please explain):

(g) It is not determined (please explain:)

Your comments: The EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) provide a definition of "significant" which requires consideration of both the context and intensity.

I.1.6. Please clarify whether “cumulative impacts” are taken into account in transboundary procedures under the Convention in your national legislation and, if so, how:

(a) Yes, the legislation provides for taking into account cumulative impacts:

Please explain: The EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) provide a definition of the term cumulative and cumulation which mean the combined effects of two or more or parts of projects, or of a project and the existing baseline, on the environment, and include:

(a) synergistic and antagonistic effects;

(b) combination with any effects already present in the current baseline; and

(c) the impacts of consequent or ancillary development.

¹ Although the term “significance” is not explicitly defined in the Convention, appendix III thereto provides general criteria to assist in determining the environmental significance of activities not listed in appendix I.

This definition and any other reference to the term 'cumulative' in the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) apply to all projects undergoing an EIA, including transboundary projects.

(b) No, the legislation does not provide for taking into account cumulative impacts

Please explain:

Your comments:

Article 2 General provisions

I.2.1. Provide information on legislative, regulatory, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention (art. 2 (2)):

(a) Law on environmental impact assessment (please provide exact title/reference number/year/access link, if any): Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017 (Subsidiary Legislation 549.46) <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.46/eng/pdf>

(b) Environmental impact assessment provisions are transposed into another law/other laws (please specify and provide title(s) of the related legislation): N/A

(c) Regulation (please indicate number/year/title/related articles/access links): Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2017 (Subsidiary Legislation 549.46). <https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.46/eng/pdf>

(d) Administrative (please indicate number/year/title/related articles/access links): N/A

(e) Other (please specify): N/A

Please explain: All provisions related to transboundary impacts are included in Part VII of the said Regulations.

I.2.2. Is the list of activities referred to in appendix I to the Convention fully transposed into your country's national legislation?

(a) Yes. There is no difference, all activities referred to in appendix I are covered by national legislation

Please elaborate, as needed: The list of activities included in Appendix I of the Convention covered by the list of projects listed Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU), is included in Schedule I of the Maltese EIA Regulations, 2017 (S.L. 549.46).

(b) No. Activities covered by national legislation differ slightly from the activities referred to in appendix I Please explain:

(c) No, there are gaps remaining in the list of activities in the national legislation

Please explain:

I.2.3. Indicate the competent authority/authorities responsible for carrying out the environmental impact assessment procedure in your country. Please specify:

(a) There are different authorities at the national, regional and local levels

(b) Authorities are different for domestic and transboundary procedures

(c) Authorities are the same for domestic and transboundary procedures

Please name the authority/authorities and its/their responsibilities: The Environment and Resources Authority is the competent authority on the EIA process in Malta.

I.2.4. Is there an authority in your country that collects information on all the transboundary environmental impact assessment cases? If so, please name it:

- (a) No
(b) Yes

If “Yes”, please clarify the type of information collected and provide access link, if available:

The Environment and Resources Authority keeps the information related to the EIA process for transboundary projects.

Your comments:

Article 3 Notification

I.3.1. Article 3 (1) states that: “The Party of origin shall notify any Party which it considers may be an affected Party as early as possible and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity.” As a Party of origin, when do you notify the affected Parties?

- (a) During scoping
(b) When the environmental impact assessment report has been prepared and the domestic procedure has started
(c) After finishing the domestic procedure
(d) At other times (please specify): As early as possible i.e. before the scoping stage, as outlined in Regulation 25(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2017 (S.L. 549.46).

Your comments:

I.3.2. Please define the format of notification used in your country:

- (a) Notification is carried out using the tabular form in table 1 of decision I/4 on the format for notification adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its first session (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix, para. 32 and table 1)
(b) Notification is carried out in the form of a letter containing all information detailed in decision I/4 of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix, para. 34)
(c) A combination of (a) and (b) above (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix, para. 35)
(d) The country has its own format (please attach a copy)
(e) No official format used

Your comments: The EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) do not specify the format of the notification, however the notification would include the information laid down under Regulation 25(1) of the same Regulations.

I.3.3. As a Party of origin, what information do you include in the notification (art. 3 (2))? Please specify (more than one options may apply):

- (a) Information on the proposed activity, including any available information on its possible transboundary impact (art. 3 (2) (a))
(b) The nature of the possible decision (art. 3 (2) (b))
(c) An indication of a reasonable time within which a response is required, taking into account the nature of the proposed activity (art. 3 (2) (c))

(d) Relevant information regarding the environmental impact assessment procedure, including an indication of the time schedule for transmittal of comments (art. 3 (5) (a))

(e) Relevant information on the proposed activity and its possible significant adverse transboundary impact (art. 3 (5) (b))

(f) Other (please specify):

Your comments: As per reply to question I.3.2 above.

I.3.4. Article 3 (3) requires that “The affected Party shall respond to the Party of origin within the time specified in the notification”. As a Party of origin, please indicate whether your country’s legislative or regulatory framework defines a time frame for response to the notification by the affected Party/ies and, if so, how:

(a) No, the time frame is not specified in the national legislation

(b) Yes, the time frame is specified in the national legislation

Please indicate the time frame or its range as per your national legislation, in weeks/days:
30 calendar days

(c) The time frame is determined and agreed with each affected Party on a case-by-case basis

Please indicate the average time frame set on a case-by-case basis, in weeks/days:

Your comments:

I.3.5. Please specify the consequences should a notified affected Party not comply with the time frame for responding to the notification, as required by article 3 (3), and elaborate on the possibilities of extending the deadline:

Your comments: There are no legal or administrative consequences if a notified affected Party does not comply with the time frame as specified above.

I.3.6. Article 3 (8) states that: “The concerned Parties shall ensure that the public of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected be informed of ... the proposed activity”. Which of the following approaches do you use to achieve this goal? Please specify:

(a) Informing the point of contact for the Convention listed on the Convention website²

(b) Other (please specify):

Your comments: In accordance with the provisions laid down in Regulation 25(5) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46).

I.3.7. On what basis does your country, as an affected Party, make the decision to participate (or not) in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure? Please specify:

(a) Notified ministry/authority of the affected Party responsible for environmental impact assessment decides on its own based on the documentation provided by the Party of origin

(b) Based on the opinion of the competent authorities of the affected Party

² List available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/points-contact-regarding-notification>.

(c) Based on the opinion of the competent authorities and of the public of the affected Party

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments: In accordance with the provisions laid down under Regulation 26 of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46).

I.3.8. Article 3 (5) (a) states that the Party of origin must provide affected Parties with “relevant information regarding the environmental impact assessment procedure, including an indication of the time schedule for transmittal of comments”.

How does your country, as a Party of origin, determine the time schedule referred to in article 3 (5) (a)? Please specify:

(a) Following the rules and procedures of the Party of origin

(b) Following the rules and procedures of the affected Party/ies

(c) A combination of (a) and (b) above. Please specify the rules and procedures of the Party of origin and the affected Party/ies that are applied in the combination:

(d) Other (please specify): Regulation 25 (3) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) states that the interested State shall agree with the Minister on a reasonable time-frame for the consultation period, taking into account the nature, scale and characteristics of the proposed project and its location.

Your comments:

Articles 2 (6), 3 (8) and 4 (2) Public participation

I.3.9. Article 2 (6) of the Convention states that: “The Party of origin shall provide an opportunity to the public in the areas likely to be affected to participate in relevant environmental impact assessment procedures and shall ensure that the opportunity provided to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to that provided to the public of the Party of origin.”

How does your country’s environmental impact assessment legislation ensure that equivalent opportunities and rights to participate in the procedure are provided for the public of the affected Party?

(a) As an affected Party:

(i) Not specified in the national legislation, but it is determined and agreed with the Party of origin on a case-by-case basis at the beginning of the transboundary procedure

(ii) Specified in the national legislation as follows: With respect to consultation and public participation, the same provisions as for national level projects would apply. The provisions related to the Regulation 26 (4) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) also refer.

Your comments:

(b) As a Party of origin:

(i) Not specified in the national legislation; such equivalent opportunities and rights cannot be ensured in the procedure

Please explain:

(ii) Not specified in the national legislation, but it is determined and agreed with the affected Party on a case-by-case basis at the beginning of the transboundary procedure

(iii) Specified in the national legislation as follows: The EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) provide opportunities for public participation as follows: (i) scoping through Regulation 16 (within 30 days); and (ii) the EIA Report review through Regulation 19 (not less than 30 days) as laid down in the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46). In this regard, the same consultation process with the public that is undertaken for local (non-transboundary) projects would also apply for transboundary cases. With respect to the EIA Report review period, which states that the consultation shall not be less than 30 days, the time frame for the review period can be agreed with the affected Party at the beginning of the transboundary procedure.

Your comments: With respect to consultation and public participation, the same provisions as for national level projects would apply. The provisions related to the Regulation 26 (4) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) also refer.

I.3.10. How can the public of your country, as an affected Party, express its opinion on the environmental impact assessment documentation of the proposed project further to articles 2 (6), 3 (8) and 4 (2)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) By sending comments in writing directly to the competent authority of the Party of origin, or to the ministry responsible for environmental affairs/focal point in the affected Party

(b) In a territory of the affected Party: by taking part in consultations [on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation] or a special event, where the opinions of the public are officially registered

(c) In a territory of the Party of origin: by taking part in consultations or a special event, where the opinions of the public are officially registered

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments: By sending comments to the competent authority of the affected Party which are then collected and duly referred to the focal point of the Party of origin.

Article 4 Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.4.1. How do you determine the relevant information to be included in the environmental impact assessment documentation in accordance with article 4 (1)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) By using appendix II

(b) By using the comments received from the authorities concerned during the scoping phase, if applicable

(c) By using the comments received from members of the public during the scoping phase, if applicable

(d) As determined by the proponent based on its own expertise

(e) By using other means (please specify):

Your comments: Following the scoping stage consultation, terms of reference are issued by the Competent Authority and referred to the proponent for the preparation of the EIA Report. As a general note, the same procedure for non-transboundary projects, also applies for activities having a transboundary nature.

I.4.2. Article 4 states that: “The environmental impact assessment documentation... shall contain, as a minimum, the information described in appendix II.” What quality control measures are provided for in the legislative or administrative framework of your country, as a Party of origin, to ensure sufficient quality of the documentation? Please specify:

- (a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures that it includes all information required under appendix II as a minimum before making it available for comments
- (b) By using quality checklists based on the requirements listed in appendix II
- (c) There are no specific procedures or mechanisms
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments: In terms of quality control, the requirements for proposals which do not have any transboundary impacts, as detailed in Regulation 18 of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46), are also applicable in the case of projects that may have transboundary effects.

I.4.3. How do you determine “reasonable alternatives” in accordance with appendix II (b)?

- (a) On a case-by-case basis
- (b) As defined in the national legislation (please specify):
- (c) Other (please specify): see below please

Your comments: In terms of reasonable alternatives, the requirements for proposals which do not have any transboundary impacts, as detailed in Regulation 18(1) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46), are also applicable in the case of projects that may have transboundary effects. The EIA Regulations make reference to a description of reasonable alternatives which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment.

Article 5 Consultations on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.5. Does your national environmental impact assessment legislation provide for organizing transboundary consultations between the authorities of the Parties concerned?

- (a) Yes, it is obligatory
- (b) Yes, it is optional (please specify):
- (c) No, it does not have any provision on that

Your comments: Reply to Question I.3.7 applies. In addition, as per Regulation 28, the Minister may enter into discussions with another State to determine whether a project, or combination of projects, not listed in Schedule I, or in the legislation of that State is likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact such that the provisions of Regulation 25 and 26, as relevant, should apply.



Article 6

Final decision

I.6.1. Please select from the list below the information that your country, as a Party of origin, in accordance with its legislative and administrative framework, should take due account of in the final decision on the proposed activity (art. 6 (1)):

- (a) Conclusions of the environmental impact assessment documentation
- (b) Comments received in accordance with articles 3 (8) and 4 (2)
- (c) Outcome of the consultations as referred to in article 5
- (d) Outcomes of the transboundary consultations
- (e) Comments received from the affected Party/ies
- (f) Mitigation measures
- (g) Other (please specify):

Your comments: As indicated by Regulation 25(6) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46).

I.6.2. Are the comments of the authorities and the public of the affected Party and the outcome of the consultations taken into consideration in the same way as the comments from the authorities and the public in your country (art. 6 (1))?:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No Please explain the differences

Your comments: The same procedure applies.

I.6.3. According to article 6 (3): If additional information on the significant transboundary impact of a proposed activity, which was not available at the time a decision was made with respect to that activity and which could have materially affected the decision, becomes available to a concerned Party before work on that activity commences, that Party shall immediately inform the other concerned Party or Parties. If one of the concerned Parties so requests, consultations shall be held as to whether the decision needs to be revised.

Is there any regulation in your country that ensures the implementation of the provisions of article 6 (3)?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes, by legislation (please specify): This is covered by Regulation 25(7) of the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46).
- (c) Yes, by other means (please specify):

Your comments:

I.6.4. Do all activities listed in appendix I (items 1–22) and major changes thereto require a final decision to authorize or undertake such an activity in your legislative framework?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

If “No”, please list those activities listed in appendix I or major changes thereto for which there is no requirement for a final decision. Please explain why those activities/major changes do not require a final decision in your national legislation.

Article 7

Post-project analysis

I.7. Is there any provision regarding implementation of post-project analysis in your national environmental impact assessment legislation (art. 7 (1))?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes Please specify:

Your comments: Post-project analysis is carried out through monitoring in line with the legal requirements associated with the EIA process. This is detailed in Part VIII of EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46). The same requirements would apply for projects with transboundary effects.

Article 8

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

I.8.1. According to article 8: “The Parties may continue existing or enter into new bilateral or multilateral agreements or other arrangements in order to implement their obligations under this Convention and under any of its protocols to which they are a Party. Such agreements or other arrangements may be based on the elements listed in appendix VI.”

Has your country established any bilateral or multilateral agreements to implement the Convention?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes Please specify with which countries:

If publicly available, please also attach the texts of any such bilateral and multilateral agreements, preferably in English, French or Russian.

Your comments: Although no bilateral and multilateral agreements to meet the obligations of the Convention were entered, the EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46) provide for such agreements, as appropriate.

I.8.2. What issues do these bilateral agreements cover (appendix VI)? (More than one option may apply):

- (a) Specific conditions of the subregion concerned
- (b) Institutional, administrative and other arrangements
- (c) Harmonization of the Parties’ policies and measures
- (d) Developing, improving and/or harmonizing methods for the identification, measurement, prediction and assessment of impacts, and for post-project analysis
- (e) Developing and/or improving methods and programmes for the collection, analysis, storage and timely dissemination of comparable data regarding environmental quality in order to provide input into the environmental impact assessment
- (f) Establishment of threshold levels and more specified criteria for defining the significance of transboundary impacts related to the location, nature or size of proposed activities
- (g) Undertaking joint environmental impact assessment, development of joint monitoring programmes, intercalibration of monitoring devices and harmonization of methodologies
- (h) Other, please specify: N/A

Your comments: See previous reply.

Complimentary information related to legal implementation of the Convention

I.9.1. Please describe how the steps required under your national legislation for carrying out a transboundary procedure are interlinked with a domestic environmental impact assessment procedure in the lead-up to the final decision.

In doing so, please also describe differences between the steps (i.e. screening/scoping, preparation of the environmental impact assessment, consultation, public participation, making a final decision) of a domestic procedure and a transboundary procedure, if any:

Alternatively, this question can be answered or supported by a schematic flow chart showing these steps.

Your comments: Same process applies for activities having a transboundary nature.

I.9.2. Does your country have special provisions or informal arrangements concerning transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures for joint cross-border projects, the construction of nuclear power plants and/or their lifetime extension?

<i>Joint cross-border projects</i>	<i>Construction of nuclear power plants</i>	<i>Lifetime extension of nuclear power plants</i>
(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
(i) Special provisions:	(i) Special provisions:	(i) Special provisions:
(ii) Informal arrangements:	(ii) Informal arrangements:	(ii) Informal arrangements:
Please explain:	Please explain:	Please explain:

Your comments:

Part two

Practical application during the period 2019–2021³

Please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Convention (not your country's procedures, as described in part one), whether as a Party of origin or as an affected Party. The focus here is on identifying good practices as well as difficulties Parties have encountered in applying the Convention in practice. The goal is to enable Parties to share solutions. Please therefore provide appropriate examples highlighting application of the Convention and innovative approaches to improving its application.

Part two also focuses on general issues arising from the sixth review of implementation of the Convention (2016–2018)^a and issues that have been identified as priorities by Parties in the 2021–2023 workplan.^b It also addresses the goals of the Long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol that requires that the reviews of implementation be adapted, in particular, “to maximize their usefulness as a source of information, highlight progress achieved, draw attention to areas that need improvement, disseminate best practice ...”.^c

^a United Nations publication, ECE/MP.EIA/32.

^b ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2.

^c ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/3–IV/3, annex, item II.A.9.

A. List of transboundary procedures initiated during the period 2019–2021

II.1. Please indicate, in the table provided in annex I to the present questionnaire, the total number of transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures initiated in the reporting period in relation to activities listed in appendix I to the Convention and in which your country was a Party of origin or affected Party. Please also indicate the number and types of transboundary procedures related to activities not listed in appendix I that your country implemented in the reporting period as a Party of origin or as an affected Party, if any.

Your comments: Refer to annex I

II.2. Please list transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures referred to in question II.1. above using table 1 of annex II to the present questionnaire for procedures in which your country was a Party of origin and table (2) for procedures in which your country was an affected Party.

Your comments: Refer to details in table 1 of annex II

II.3. According to paragraph 10 of decision VIII/5 of the Meeting of the Parties the project lists referred to in question II.2 above and annex II to the present questionnaire are to be posted on the ECE website. Should your country object to this, however, please indicate “Yes” and explain, as relevant:

(a) Yes (my country has an objection the compilation and posting of this information)

Please explain:

(b) No (no objection)

³ Part II of this questionnaire is not considered to be a reporting obligation according to the Convention. Parties are encouraged to share examples of good practice, subject to their capabilities and the availability of relevant data.

Your comments:

B. Experience in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure during the period 2019–2021

Please share with other Parties your country's experience of using the Convention in practice. When responding to each of the questions below, please provide one or two practical examples and/or describe your country's general experience. You might also include examples of lessons learned in order to help others.

II.4. Please provide at least one example of the implementation of the Convention for an activity listed in appendix I to the Convention based on the template contained in annex III to the present questionnaire.

Your comments: Malta-Italy gas pipeline (Point 8 of Appendix I of the Espoo Convention).

II.5. The Convention does not refer to the translation of environmental impact assessment documentation and to other language-related issues as important prerequisites for providing effective public participation of potentially affected Parties in a transboundary procedure. As an affected Party, please specify in which language(s) the environmental impact assessment documentation is made available for your own public to ensure effective public participation in transboundary procedures. (You may select several options, as needed):

- (a) In the official language(s) of the country Please specify: In view that Malta has two official languages, Maltese and English, the EIA is typically prepared in English with a non-technical summary provided in both languages.
- (b) Information in English is acceptable
- (c) Please list other languages that fulfil the requirements of effective public participation in your country, if applicable:

Your comments

II.6. What difficulties has your country experienced with regard to translation of environmental impact assessment documentation and interpretation during consultation meetings with authorities, or during events organized within the public participation procedure, if applicable, and what solutions has it found?

- (a) Experience with regard to translation of the environmental impact assessment documentation
 - (i) As a Party of origin: The EIA was provided in English with a non-technical summary in Italian. No particular difficulties were flagged up.
 - (ii) As an affected Party: The EIA was provided in Italian with a non-technical summary in Italian and English. Review comments and responses as part of the transboundary consultation were provided in Italian and English. No particular difficulties were flagged up.
- (b) Experience with regard to interpretation during consultation meetings with authorities
 - (i) As a Party of origin: EIA documentation was made available on the website of the Competent Authority on EIA. No particular difficulties were flagged up.
 - (ii) As an affected Party: EIA documentation was made available on the website of the Competent Authority on EIA. No particular difficulties were flagged up.
- (c) Experience with regard to interpretation during public participation-related events
 - (i) As a Party of origin: As per point (b) above.
 - (ii) As an affected Party: As per point (b) above.

Your comments:

II.7. Which Party covers the cost of translation of environmental impact assessment documentation?

- (a) As a Party of origin: Malta.
- (b) As an affected Party: The party of origin
- (c) Other, please specify:

Your comments:

II.8. What parts of the environmental impact assessment documentation does your country usually translate/require to be translated?

- (a) As a Party of origin: As per reply to II.6(a) (i) above
- (b) As an affected Party: As per reply to II.6(a) (ii) above

Your comments:

II.9. Has the issue of translation been addressed in bilateral agreements between your country and other Parties?

- (a) Yes Please explain how it has been addressed:
- (b) No

Your comments: There was no need since procedure worked effectively between the two countries.

II.10. As a Party of origin, how and in which language do you usually provide environmental impact assessment documentation to the affected Party?

- (a) A full set of environmental impact assessment documentation is translated into English
- (b) Selected parts of the documentation are translated in English
Please specify which parts are translated and how they are selected
- (c) A full set of environmental impact assessment documentation is translated into the affected Party's language
- (d) Selected parts of environmental impact assessment documentation are translated into the language of the affected Party
Please specify which parts are translated and how they are selected The non-technical summary and as outlined in reply to II.6 (a) above.
- (e) Other (please specify)

Your comments: A full set of EIA documentation in English was submitted to Italy (as affected party) together with a non-technical summary in Italian. See also reply to II.6 (d) above.

II. 11. Please indicate how the costs of interpretation during the events organized within the public participation procedure are covered:

- (a) By the developer: Please explain: Any translation costs were covered by the developer.
- (b) By the Party of origin alone: Please explain
- (c) By the affected Party alone: Please explain
- (d) Shared by both Parties concerned upon an agreement:
- (e) Please provide details of related agreements and considerations based on which the Parties concerned agreed to share the translation costs:

(f) Other (please specify)

Your comments:

II.12. Please describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during public participation procedures and consultations referred to in articles 2 (5), 3 (8), 4 (2) and 5 with regard to issues not covered above; for example, with regard to time frames for the duration of public participation and the consultation period and the need for additional information:

(a) As a Party of origin:

(i) Experience with public participation Nil

(ii) Experience with consultations under article 5 Nil

(b) As an affected Party:

(i) Experience with public participation Nil

(ii) Experience with consultations under article 5 Nil

Your comments:

II.13. Has your country carried out post-project analyses in the period 2019–2021:

(a) No

(b) Yes

Please list the projects for which post-project analysis was carried out, describing challenges and lessons learned, if any:

Your comments:

II.14. Does your country have successful examples of organizing transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures in any of the categories of projects indicated below?

<i>Joint cross-border projects</i>	<i>Construction of nuclear power plants</i>	<i>Lifetime extension of nuclear power plants</i>
(a) No <input type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

If “Yes”, please describe what, in your opinion, made it successful, for example, means of cooperation (for example, contact points, joint bodies, bilateral agreements, special and common provisions, etc.), institutional arrangements, and how practical matters are dealt with (for example, translation, interpretation, transmission of documents, etc.):

(a) For joint cross-border projects: Cooperation, agreement on time frames, digital transmission of EIA related documentation.

(b) For construction of nuclear power plants:

(c) For lifetime extension of nuclear power plants:

You may also wish to describe the example using annex III to the present questionnaire.

Your comments:

II.15. Please provide examples from your experience during the reporting period (either complete cases or elements such as notification, consultation and public participation) for the information of Parties that, in your view, constitute good practice or lessons learned on various topics:

Your comments: Planning ahead to ensure that the necessary steps of the process are duly undertaken, maintaining continuous communication and liaison both at national level and between parties.

II.16. The Long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol⁴ recommends enhancing the use of the networks of national focal points for administrative matters⁵ and points of contact for notification⁶ published on the website of the Convention. Does your country use the networks for contacting the affected Parties' authorities?

- (a) Yes, my country makes use of the networks
- (b) My country is aware of the networks but is not using them

Please explain why, and describe the alternative ways used by your country to identify which competent authority of the affected Party to contact:

Your comments: Consultations were direct with the national focal point of the affected party via the Ministry (as per the EIA Regulations, S.L. 549.46). Later in the process, a delegation of authority was issued by the relevant Ministry to simplify the communication channels.

II.17. Please specify what quality control measures your country, as a Party of origin, applies to ensure sufficient quality of environmental impact assessment documentation and, in particular, that said documentation contains, as a minimum, information described in appendix II to the Convention.

Your comments: Information to be included in the EIA documentation is to be in line with the legal requirements included in Schedule IV of EIA Regulations (S.L. 549.46). As part of the scoping stage, the competent authority on EIA in Malta issues terms of reference for the project which follow Schedule IV of the aforementioned Regulations, and which are tailor made to the proposals. Another quality control mechanism is that the EIA documentation is made public and circulated among environmental NGOs and entities of government for review. Other quality control mechanisms are laid down in Regulation 18(4-8) of the aforementioned regulations.

II.18. Please specify whether alternatives are assessed in the environmental impact assessment documentation and, if so, how. If possible, provide at least one example of such assessment, either as a Party of origin or as an affected Party, or both

Your comments: Alternatives are considered in terms of site, technology and layouts, as relevant to the case.

II.19. Please specify whether the following issues are considered in the environmental impact assessment documentation:

- (a) Biodiversity Yes, depending on relevance to the project
- (b) Climate change Yes, depending on relevance to the project
- (c) Circular economy Normally no but depends on nature of project and would normally focus on waste management issues.

⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/2020/3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/3, item II.A.7.

⁵ List of Focal Points for Administrative Matters, available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/focal-points-administrative-matters>.

⁶ List of Points of Contact regarding Notification, available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/points-contact-regarding-notification>.

(d) Sustainable Development Goal implementation Yes, indirectly through the implementation of mitigation measures and through project design, including any revisions to the design.

(e) Smart and sustainable cities Yes, depending on relevance to the project. he

(f) Sustainable infrastructure Yes, depending on relevance to project

(g) Renewables Yes, depending on relevance to project

(h) Other issues not listed above (please specify): Various environmental thematic areas as relevant to the project e.g. hydrology, geology, air quality, cultural heritage, landscape.

Please provide at least one example of how one of the above-mentioned issues is addressed in the environmental impact assessment documentation: Following scoping, the competent authority on EIAs in Malta, issues tailor made EIA terms of reference that list down various environmental thematic areas to be assessed in the EIA documentation. For example, in the case of marine ecology, a baseline study would be required as part of the EIA documentation. The likely significant impacts of the project (both direct as well as indirect) would then be assessed.

You may wish to use the template in annex III to the questionnaire.

Your comments:

II.20. Please indicate whether, in your country's practice, cumulative impacts are taken into account during the assessment under the Convention and, if so, how:

(a) No

(b) Yes

If "Yes", please provide at least one example of how cumulative impacts are considered.

Cumulative impacts depend on various factors including the scale, location and nature of the project. In the limited experience of transboundary projects for Malta (so far there was only one case), cumulative impacts with respect to underwater noise on marine mammals, turtles and fish was assessed, however there were no particular issues of concern.

Your comments:

II.21. Please indicate whether health issues are taken into account in your country during the assessment under the Convention in practice and, if so, how:

(a) No

(b) Yes

If "Yes", please provide at least one example of how health issues are taken into account In this case, the effects of the proposal on human populations were mainly related to noise and air quality. No particular issues of concern were identified.

Your comments:

II.22. Please indicate whether environmental impact assessments implemented in your country can be considered to have contributed to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and their specific targets:

(a) No, there is no evidence that environmental impact assessments contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

(b) Yes, (certain) environmental impact assessments significantly contributed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

(c) Yes, (certain) environmental impact assessments contributed somewhat to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

If “Yes”, please list the most relevant Sustainable Development Goals⁷ (and their targets) and provide [at least one] example[s] of how environmental impact assessment has contributed to their attainment. One of the most relevant sustainable development goal in this case study mentioned above is related to Sustainable Development Goal 14 'Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development' where detailed assessment was made on the marine habitats. In this case, a method statement for the transplanting of protected species as well as a condition for the monitoring of works in relation to sensitive benthic habitats were included as part of the conditions. As a general note, locally, various environmental impact assessments have led to project redesign, downscaling or project refusal. As part of the process, conditions which bring into effect the mitigation measures and monitoring requirements identified in the EIA are referred to the permitting authority.

Your comments:

⁷ 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 Sustainable Development Goal targets 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 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__Sustainable_Development_Goal_Mapping.pdf.

C. Experience in using the available guidance documents in 2019–2021

II.23. Have you used in practice the following guidance, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and available online?

<i>Title of guidance document</i>	<i>Use of guidance</i>	<i>Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance</i>
Guidance on Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/7)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Guidance on subregional cooperation (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex V, appendix)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Guidance on the Practical Application of the Espoo Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/8)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/9)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	

<i>Title of guidance document</i>	<i>Use of guidance</i>	<i>Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance</i>
Good Practice	I use it <input type="checkbox"/>	
Recommendations on the Application of the Convention to Nuclear Energy-related Activities (ECE/MP.EIA/24)	I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the document <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The document is not relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (iii) The document is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (ECE/MP.EIA/28)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the document <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The document is not relevant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (iii) The document is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Guidance on Notification according to the Espoo Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/12)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Your comments:

D. Clarity of the Convention

II.24. Has your country had difficulties implementing the procedures defined in the Convention, either as a Party of origin or as an affected Party, because of a lack of clarity of the provisions?

No

Yes Please indicate which provisions and how they are unclear:

Your comments:

E. Contributions to the funding of the workplans

II.25. Please indicate whether the information regarding contributions to the trust fund was already provided by your country in the responses to the questionnaire concerning the Protocol and covered both the Convention and the Protocol:

- (i) Yes
(ii) No

If “No”, please provide the information regarding the contributions to the trust fund below.

Your comments: The information on Malta's contribution covering both the Convention and the Protocol has been provided in Malta's responses to the questionnaire concerning the Protocol.

II.26. Through paragraph 4 of decision VII/4–III/4, applicable for the period 2017–2020, the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol jointly “urge[d] all Parties to contribute to ensuring sustainable funding of activities and an equitable and proportionate sharing of the financial burden among the Parties”.⁸ For the period 2021–2023, by paragraph 1 of decision VIII/1–IV/1, regarding funding of the adopted workplans, the Meeting of the Parties decided that “all the Parties have a duty to contribute to the sharing of the costs that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget”.⁹

(a) Please indicate whether your Government contributed to the funding of the workplans during the reporting period, indicating also the currency and the amount of the contribution:

- (i) My Government made a multi-year contribution for the period 2017–2020

Please indicate when the contribution was provided (year), amount and currency:

- (ii) Individual contribution in 2019

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason:

- (iii) Individual contribution in 2020:

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason:

- (iv) Individual contribution in 2021:

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason:

- (v) Please indicate any plans of your country to contribute for the period 2021–2023

(b) Did your country make in-kind contributions in the reporting period?

Yes Please describe how:

No Please explain the reason

F. Suggested improvements to the report

II.27. Please provide further suggestions (preferably specific drafting proposals including wording suggestions) for how this report could be improved. N/A

⁸ ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1.

⁹ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1.

Annex I

Number of transboundary procedures initiated by your country, as a Party of origin, and participated in, as an affected Party, in the reporting period

<i>Activities listed in appendix I to the Convention</i>	<i>No. of procedures as a PoO^a</i>	<i>No. of procedures as an AP^b</i>
1. Crude oil refineries (excluding undertakings manufacturing only lubricants from crude oil) and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of 500 metric tons or more of coal or bituminous shale per day.		
2. (a) Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more;		
2. (b) Nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors, including the dismantling or decommissioning of such power stations or reactors 1/ (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load).		
3. (a) Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel;		
3. (b) Installations designed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- For the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel;- For the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste;- For the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel;- Solely for the final disposal of radioactive waste; or- Solely for the storage (planned for more than 10 years) of irradiated nuclear fuels or radioactive waste in a different site than the production site.		
4. Major installations for the initial smelting of cast iron and steel and for the production of non-ferrous metals.		
5. Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos: for asbestos-cement products, with an annual production of more than 20,000 metric tons finished product; for friction material, with an annual production of more than 50 metric tons finished product; and for other asbestos utilization of more than 200 metric tons per year.		
6. Integrated chemical installations.		

<i>Activities listed in appendix I to the Convention</i>	<i>No. of procedures as a PoO^a</i>	<i>No. of procedures as an AP^b</i>
7. (a) Construction of motorways, express roads 2/ and lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports 3/ with a basic runway length of 2,100 metres or more;		
7. (b) Construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or realignment and/or widening of an existing road of two lanes or less so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new road, or realigned and/or widened section of road, would be 10 km or more in a continuous length.		
8. Large-diameter pipelines for the transport of oil, gas or chemicals.	1	1
9. Trading ports and also inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1,350 metric tons.		
10.(a) Waste-disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or landfill of toxic and dangerous wastes;		
10.(b) Waste-disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 metric tons per day.		
11. Large dams and reservoirs.		
12. Groundwater abstraction activities or artificial groundwater recharge schemes where the annual volume of water to be abstracted or recharged amounts to 10 million cubic metres or more.		
13. Pulp, paper and board manufacturing of 200 air-dried metric tons or more per day.		
14. Major quarries, mining, on-site extraction and processing of metal ores or coal.		
15. Offshore hydrocarbon production. Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500 metric tons/day in the case of petroleum and 500 000 cubic metres/day in the case of gas.		
16. Major storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products.		
17. Deforestation of large areas.		
18.(a) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where this transfer aims at preventing possible shortages of water and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 100 million cubic metres/year (transfers of piped drinking water are excluded);		
18.(b) In all other cases, works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where the multi-annual average flow of the basin of abstraction exceeds 2 000 million cubic metres/year and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 5 per cent of this flow (transfers of piped drinking water are excluded).		
19. Wastewater treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150 000 population equivalent.		

<i>Activities listed in appendix I to the Convention</i>		<i>No. of procedures as a PoO^a</i>	<i>No. of procedures as an AP^b</i>
20.	Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs with more than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 85 000 places for broilers; - 60 000 places for hens; - 3 000 places for production pigs (over 30 kg); - 900 places for sows. 		
21.	Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV or more and a length of more than 15 km.		
22.	Major installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms).		
<i>Activities not listed in appendix I for which your country implemented a transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure in the reporting period</i>			
1.	Second electrical interconnector between Malta and Sicily, Italy. Malta has requested Italy for their opinion on whether they wish to participate in the Maltese EIA proceedings. Italy have communicated to Malta that in the ‘ <i>List of major environmental impacts and mitigation measures</i> ’ reported in the Project Description Statement (PDS) and in Section 6 of Annex I of the EIA screening report, the proposal does not seem to highlight particular reciprocal transboundary impacts and does not explicit peculiar aspects, which could potentially imply transboundary effects. In this regard, the proposal did not appear effective to envisage a transboundary environmental assessment process and therefore the transboundary procedure was stopped at this stage.		
2.	...		

^a Party of origin.

^b Affected Party.

Annex II

A detailed list of the transboundary procedures in which your party participated as a Party of origin (table 1) and as an affected Party (table 2) in the reporting period

Table 1

Transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures as a Party of origin

Please find below an example of expected types of answers in each column and feel free to add additional rows as needed

				<i>Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date, if available</i>			
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (date of the notification sent)</i>	<i>Affected Party/ Parties</i>	<i>Timing of the notification</i>	<i>Submission of the environmental report</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any</i>	<i>Public participation, (please also indicate the means, for example, written comments, events organized, etc.) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date of issue, if information is available)</i>
1. Malta-Italy Gas pipeline interconnection	08/01/2018	Italy (Sicily)	State of the procedure (select as appropriate) screening/scoping/reviewing the environmental impact assessment documentation: screening Date: 30 days	Date: 28/02/2020	Date from:07/04/2020 to: 60 days (06/06/2020)	Date from: 07/04/2020 to: 06/06/2020 Written comments	Date 26/07/2021
2.							
3.							
4.							
...							

Table 2

Transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures as an affected Party

Please find below an example of expected types of answers in each column, and feel free to add additional rows as needed

					<i>Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available</i>			
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification</i>	<i>Party of origin</i>	<i>When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?</i>	<i>Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)</i>	<i>Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date when final decision was received)</i>	
1. Malta-Italy Gas pipeline interconnection	Notification received: 14/10/2020 Response sent: Date 03/11/2020 Stage of the procedure (select as appropriate) -reviewing the environmental impact assessment documentation 09/07/2021	Italy	Date Not provided	Date 14/10/2021	Time from: 09/07/2021 to: 31/08/2021	No Written comments	Date Not provided	
2. Project B						
3.								
4.								

<i>Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available</i>							
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification</i>	<i>Party of origin</i>	<i>When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?</i>	<i>Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)</i>	<i>Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date when final decision was received)</i>
...							

Annex III

Template to describe an example of application of a transboundary procedure in accordance with the Convention in the reporting period

Please provide at least one example of application of a transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure in accordance with the Convention in the reporting period using the template and reflecting on the priorities of the 2021–2023 workplan and the long-term strategy. Should you wish to share more examples, please copy the template, as needed.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Please provide the following general information about the selected example:

- Title of the transboundary procedure: Malta-Italy Gas pipeline interconnection.
- Party's role in the procedure and a list and roles of other Parties involved

Party of origin: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected Party: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affected Party/ies: MALTA	Party/ies of origin: ITALY

- Duration and period of implementation: 2018-2021
- Stage(s)/step(s) of the procedure presented in this example:

The entire procedure

Notification (art. 3):

Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation (art. 4):

Consultations of the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation (art. 5 (a)–(c))

Final decision (art. 6):

Post-project analysis (art. 7, if applicable)

Other , please specify:

II. BACKGROUND

Please provide a short description of the activity, the context of its development and general information about the environmental impact assessment procedure. The construction of an offshore gas pipeline with a diameter of 22" crossing the Sicilian Channel to link Malta to the trans-European Natural Gas Network. Transboundary consultation on the EIA documentation has been carried out in accordance with the Convention.

III. PROCEDURE UNDER THE CONVENTION AND ELEMENTS OF GOOD PRACTICE

Please describe, in more detail, using the subsections below, the procedural step(s) considered to represent good practice and then explain why that is.

- Notification** (art. 3): Notification of the project with the affected party was undertaken at the earliest possible stage, immediately following EIA screening.
- Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation** (art. 4):

Following screening and scoping, the full environmental impact assessment documentation was digitally uploaded on the competent authority's website. This facilitated consultation with the affected party.

In addition to the description above regarding the preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation, please indicate the following:

(a) What alternatives were assessed and presented in the environmental impact assessment documentation? Alternatives were considered in terms of site, technology and layouts, as relevant to the project.

(i) At what level of detail were the alternatives described? The range of plausible alternatives relevant to the project was limited and thus a brief outline description was sufficient.

(ii) What methods and/or assessment grids were used for the selection of the most reasonable alternative? N/A

(b) Whether the following issues were covered in the environmental impact assessment documentation and, if so, how:

(i) Biodiversity Yes, marine and terrestrial biodiversity

(ii) Climate change Yes, in terms of emissions

(iii) Circular economy No

(iv) Sustainable Development Goal implementation Yes, indirectly.

(v) Smart and sustainable cities N/A

(vi) Sustainable infrastructure Yes, the project itself.

(vii) Renewables Yes

(viii) Other issues not listed above: Landscape, visual amenity, geology, terrestrial/marine water bodies, avifauna and noise.

3. Consultations on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation (art. 5 (a)–(c)): Yes, these were undertaken with the affected party in line with the national legislation transposing the Convention and the EU EIA Directive.

4. Final decision (art. 6):

5. Post-project analysis (art. 7, if applicable):

IV. LESSONS LEARNED AND ADVICE TO OTHER PARTIES:

1. Please indicate:

Challenges in carrying out the procedure, if any, and how they were tackled See above section on good practice.

Lessons learned and advice to other Parties: See above section on good practice.

2. As relevant, please also refer to the contribution of the above application of environmental impact assessment procedure towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals¹ or climate objectives: N/A

¹ 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 Sustainable Development Goal targets 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):

V. ANY OTHER INFORMATION NOT INCLUDED ABOVE THAT YOU MAY WISH TO SHARE:

N/A

-
- (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 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__Sustainable_Development_Goal_Mapping.pdf.