



Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

**IDENTIFICATION OF SYNERGIES AND POSSIBLE COOPERATION
ACTIVITIES IN MARINE REGIONS**

Second joint technical meeting

16 June 2022¹ (CET/Geneva time)

Online (via WebEx)

Language: English

Participants:

Registered² representatives of secretariats and Parties/member states from:

- The Arctic Council – and its Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) working group
- The Barcelona Convention and its Protocols
- The Bucharest Convention and its Protocols
- The Espoo Convention and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- The Helsinki Convention and the Baltic Sea Action Plan
- The Ospar Convention
- The Tehran Convention and its Protocols

Aims:

- Introduce the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA and the activity under their joint workplan for 2021–2023 for the identification of synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions.
- Discuss a draft assessment report prepared by consultants based on inputs from the treaty secretariats.
- Present selected examples of good practice in the application of the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA in marine regions.
- Discuss key areas of interest and proposals for possible cooperation activities in marine regions.
- Discuss remaining information gaps and further steps.

¹ (On 17 June, the online joint meeting is followed by a 0,5-day meeting of the secretariats to the respective conventions and bodies, which is held in Geneva, in a hybrid format from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.)

² **All delegates participating at the meeting on 16 June are invited to register online by 16 May 2022, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000955/>. The online (WebEx) meeting link and any other practical information will be disseminated to all registered participants the day before the meeting on 15 June.**

DRAFT AGENDA
Thursday, 16 June 2022

Indicative timing	Item
8.30–9.30	<i>Testing of the online (WebEx) connections</i>
9.30–10.00	I. Introductory session
09.30–09.35	Opening (Tea Aulavuo, Secretary to the (Espoo) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, UNECE)
09.35–10.00	Introductory statements by the donor country, Italy (Anna-Maria Maggiore, Head of sector, Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea) and the secretariats of the regional sea conventions/bodies
10.00–noon <i>(Including a short break)</i>	II. Environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context in the respective marine regions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key provisions of the Espoo Convention (Tea Aulavuo, Secretary) • Good practice example – Baltic Sea Pipeline (Marta Truszczyńska, General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Poland) • Key findings from the draft assessment report, including initial evaluation of the coherence of the relevant provisions and practice of the regional seas conventions and bodies with the Espoo Convention; and identification of remaining information gaps (Daniela Addis and Jiří Dusík, consultants to UNECE) • Key areas of interest for possible cooperation activities in marine regions related to EIA in a transboundary context, addressing also opportunities/benefits as well as challenges and possible solutions regarding the application of transboundary EIA (Summary by Jiří Dusík, consultant, followed by a tour-de-table and facilitated discussion)
Noon–13.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
13.00–15.00 <i>(Including a short break)</i>	III. Strategic environmental impact assessment – in national and transboundary contexts - in the respective marine regions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key provisions of the Protocol on SEA (Tea Aulavuo, Secretary) • Good practice example application of SEA in a transboundary context to Maritime Spatial Plans in the Adriatic Sea (Vesna Kolar-Planinšič, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia, in cooperation with Italy) • Key findings from the draft assessment report, including initial analysis evaluation of the coherence of the relevant provisions and practice of the regional seas conventions and bodies with the Espoo Convention, and

	<p>identification of remaining information gaps (Jiří Dusík and Daniela Addis, consultants)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key areas of interest for possible cooperation activities in marine regions related to SEA in marine regions – both in national and transboundary context - addressing also opportunities/benefits, challenges and possible solutions to its application (opening summary by Jiří Dusík, consultant, followed by a tour-de-table and facilitated discussion)
15.00–15.15	<i>Break</i>
15.15–16.45	IV. Key areas of interest and proposals for possible cooperation activities in marine regions and remaining information gaps
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap on the key suggestions and points made under the sessions II and III above (Jiří Dusík and Daniela Addis, consultants) • Tour de table and discussion on possible priority cooperation activities in marine regions
16.45–17.00	V. Closing remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next steps before the third joint meeting (tentatively scheduled to be held online, on 6 and 7 July 2023) (Tea Aulavuo, Secretary to the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA)
17.00	End of the meeting