



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**

Third joint technical meeting¹

16 May 2023

9:00-13:00 CET/Geneva time

Online (via WebEx) Language: English

Participants:

Representatives of secretariats and Parties/member states from:

- 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
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

Aims:

- Discuss and further elaborate on the previously agreed proposals for possible cooperation activities to promote the effective application of strategic environmental assessment and transboundary environmental impact assessment in marine regions – with a focus on activities for 2024–2026²
- Present and consider updates on relevant ongoing and foreseen activities under the regional sea conventions and commissions, as well as feedback received this far on the proposed cooperation activities by their respective contracting Parties
- Discuss any further recommendations, proposals, further steps to be proposed to the Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention (9th session) and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on SEA (5th session) on 12 - 15 December 2023
- Present selected example(s) of good practice in the application of the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA in marine regions

¹ See reports on the 1st meeting (online, 19 November 2021) <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/361987> and the 2nd meeting (online, 16 June 2022) <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/368518>

² See: Draft report on synergies and possible cooperation activities in marine regions ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/9, section IV; and an excerpt from the draft workplan for 2024–2026 under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2023/3 to be considered by the Working Group on EIA and SEA at its next meeting (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023).

DRAFT AGENDA

16 May 2023

Indicative timing	Item
08:30–09:00	<i>Testing of the online (WebEx) connections</i>
09:00–09:20	I. Introductory session
09:00–09:10	Opening <i>Tea Aulavuo</i> , Secretary to the (Espoo) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, UNECE
09:10–9:20	Introductory statement by the donor country, Italy <i>Anna Maria Maggiore</i> , Head of sector, Ministry of Environment and Energy Security
09:20–10:50	II. Environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context in the respective marine regions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief summary of a good practice example: Transboundary EIA of the Saare Wind Energy offshore wind farm - Estonia • Recap of the priority proposals 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 • Tour-de-table and discussion: updates on relevant activities under the regional sea conventions and commissions, as well as on feedback received on the proposed cooperation activities from their respective contracting Parties
10:50-11:00	<i>Short break</i>
11:00–12:30	III. Strategic environmental assessment – in national and transboundary contexts - in the respective marine regions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief summary of good practice example: SEA of the Italian Maritime Spatial Planning – Italy • Recap on the priority proposals for possible cooperation activities in marine regions related to SEA in marine regions both in national and transboundary context • Tour-de-table and discussion: updates on relevant activities under the regional sea conventions and commissions, as well as on feedback received on the proposed cooperation activities from their respective contracting Parties
12:30-12:55	IV. Recommendations, proposals, further steps to be proposed to the next Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap on the key suggestions and points made under the sessions II and III above • Next steps before the MOP (UNECE Secretariat)
12:55-13:00	Closing Remarks and end of the meeting