

High-level event on the contribution of the Convention and/or the Protocol to energy transition, circular economy and green financing

Green financing

Key messages to be presented by Andriy Andrushevych, Society & Environment

- The EU is a regional & global pioneer establishing an ambitious regulatory framework for green taxonomy together with a reliable regulatory framework regarding disclosure of non-financial information as provided for in the SFDR (Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation);
- The development process in the EU was, in general, participatory & setting an important international good practice for transparency;
- NGO community remains critical on some issues (in particular on the role of gas and nuclear energy as transitional activities, as well as including biomass and production of bio-plastics) and insists on using science-based approach,
- Despite these red-flags in the March 2023 package on four (non-climate) environmental objectives, at the end it all did not prevent civil society from welcoming the progress made to establish a more holistic framework to label truly sustainable investments;
- EIA already has a role in the EU taxonomy framework, in particular EIA as a technical and generic criteria, including for DNSH;
- Both EIA and SEA have a strong potential to prevent greenwashing the green taxonomy framework itself when funding comes to the ground;
- Espoo Convention requirements and implementation mechanisms can be an important element for a green taxonomy framework practical application in the overall UNECE region and beyond, serving as both EIA and TEIA model (significant damage (impact) often takes place outside the country(-ies) of origin); this may require re-thinking so comfortable & well-established approaches to EIA practice;
- Finally, financing Ukraine's post-war reconstruction from the consequences of the Russian aggression will probably be a major future European (international) single investment; it must include a solid green taxonomy to ensure build back better and greener vision and taking into account Espoo Convention EIA framework; recently adopted approach by National Recovery Agency for selecting/prioritizing projects based on relevance to Paris Agreement goals is a good start.