



Mediterranean Sea 1st Subregional Meeting on Environmental Assessments in a Transboundary Context

Republic of Cyprus' EIA/SEA Case Studies in marine areas

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Republic of Cyprus (RoC) - Main legislative framework regulating environmental impacts assessment in a Transboundary Context in the Marine Environment

1. Environmental Impact Assessment for Certain Plans and/or Programs Law – SEA Directive
2. Environmental Impact Assessment for Certain Projects Law – EIA Directive
3. United Nations on the EIA on Transboundary Context Law -Ratification Law of the ESPOO Convention
4. Ratification Law of the Protocol on the Strategic Environmental Assessment on a Transboundary Context (Kyiv Protocol of the ESPOO)
5. Ratification Law of the Protocol of 1997 for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the seabed and its subsoil (Offshore Protocol of the Barcelona Convention)
6. Maritime Spatial Planning and other Related Matters Law - Maritime Spatial Planning Directive
7. For PCIs Cyprus also applies the procedures of the relevant PCIs European regulation.

Republic of Cyprus (RoC) – Case Studies on transboundary energy projects

Department of Environment as the competent environmental authority has assessed 3 major transboundary energy projects under environmental assessment, namely:

- the Subsea Electric Cable “**Euroasia Interconnector**”,
- the natural gas transfer subsea pipeline “**Eastmed**” and
- the LNG import terminal (**FSRU – LNG project**) “**CyprusGas2EU project**”.
 - **Eastmed** landing point and onshore installations as well as FSRU and onshore installations will be located within the area of the Cyprus Energy Centre.
 - **Euroasia** will land in Larnaca district where the onshore installations will also be located.
- **EIA Scoping** has also been conducted by the DoE for “**EuroAfrica Interconnector**” (Transboundary Subsea Electric Cable)

Republic of Cyprus (RoC) – Case Studies on transboundary Fiber Optics Cables

- Furthermore, there are **Fiber Optics Subsea Cables**, running from offshore waters to Cyprus coast and inland areas.
- For Cyprus, the competent authority has already assessed **2 major projects of Fiber Optics Subsea Cables**:
 - BlueMed Fiber Optics Subsea Cables
 - PeaceMed Fiber Optics Subsea Cables
- **EIA Scoping** has also been conducted by the DoE for FOSC:
 - Blue Raman
 - CADMOS-2
 - QUANTUM

Republic of Cyprus (RoC) – Case Studies on O&G Activities

DoE RoC has also extensive experience on EIA of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities:

- (a) seismic surveys,
 - (b) environmental baseline studies,
 - (c) drilling exploration (wild cut, appraisal)
- **No** experience yet: (d) exploitation activities

Republic of Cyprus (RoC) – Transboundary impacts Assessment Practices

- Cyprus as a Contracting Party of the ESPOO Convention is planning to apply the relevant provisions of the Convention, provided that any part of the projects mentioned above will be initiated within the jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus.
- For **Eastmed** gas pipeline, Cyprus is in communication with Greece with regards to the necessary streamlining of the notification and EIA procedures, as both countries are members of the ESPOO.
- For **Offshore O&G Activities (production)** Cyprus is in communication with Egypt for information transfer and common procedures identification and setting for an effective EIA assessment on a transboundary context.

Republic of Cyprus (RoC) – Transboundary impacts Assessment Practices

- For all marine projects, an **Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS)** is a prerequisite to facilitate the monitoring of environmental impacts throughout the projects' lifecycle.
- **Passive Acoustic Monitoring Expert and Marine Mammal Observer** should always be on the ship during the implementation of the EBS.
- For **O&G Activities and Cables** an **ROV, AUV and or Side Scan Sonar Survey** is requested to ensure the absence or presence of sensitive species or characteristics at the seabed and area expected to be affected.
- For **coastal projects**, there are cases where an **extensive marine survey study** is requested, for which a **good recording of biodiversity** is necessary and contacted by divers.

Republic of Cyprus (RoC) – Transboundary impacts Assessment Practices

- Before the initiation and preparation of most of the studies, usually a **scoping procedure is implemented** for almost all marine and coastal projects.
- In addition, the Competent Authority is in **close cooperation and communication with the projects' owners and other public authorities dealing with environmental legislation.**
- To ensure effective impacts assessment, the **EIA reports, EBS and the other marine studies are assessed by a group of people that have expertise on the subject.**
- All **EIA procedures are streamlined** by the EIA Competent Authority (Department of Environment) to **eliminate any insufficiency and/or gaps.**

*Thank you for your
attention*