



Espoo Convention EIA/SEA UPDATE Issue No. 2, May 2004



Welcome!

Welcome to the second issue of EIA/SEA UPDATE. The UPDATE provides a less formal means of letting you know what is happening with the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context and its new Kiev Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). You can find out more about the Convention and Protocol on the Convention web site, www.unece.org/env/eia.

The first issue of UPDATE appeared in both English and, courtesy of **REC Central Asia**, in Russian.

This second issue focuses on **Cavtat 2004**: the 3rd meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention and the first meeting of the Signatories to the SEA Protocol (Cavtat, Croatia, from 1 to 4 June 2004). Final preparatory meetings were held in January 2004 for this event, as described in this UPDATE.

Unfortunately, we have no ratifications to announce in this issue, but ...



Remember! Cavtat 2004 would be an excellent opportunity for countries to announce their ratification of the Espoo Convention, the amendment and the SEA Protocol!

Meanwhile, other events have taken place or are planned, as described in this UPDATE, including:

- a side event on the SEA Protocol hosted by WHO, REC CEE and UNECE, during the Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment (June); and
 - a project on SEA Promotion and Capacity Building by the UNDP Regional Centre for Europe and CIS.
- a REC CEE (REC Central & Eastern Europe) seminar on SEA (April);

Cavtat 2004



The Hotel Croatia in Cavtat (Croatia) will be the venue of the 3rd meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention, including the 1st meeting of the Signatories to the SEA Protocol, from 1 to 4 June 2004, at the kind invitation of the Croatian Government. Please check the Convention web site for the latest news and for meeting documents as they become available: www.unece.org/env/eia/cavtat.htm.

Interested in sponsoring Cavtat 2004? - it's never too late. Just contact the conference organizer: Nenad.Mikulic@duzo.tel.hr.

Preparatory Meeting for the 1st Meeting of the Signatories to the SEA Protocol

In Geneva, 26-27 January 2004, the 2nd (and last) preparatory meeting was held for the 1st meeting of the Signatories to the SEA Protocol. The key meeting outcomes were:

- identification of Protocol-related activities to be included in the joint work plan and budget (see below);
- agreement on the Protocol-related items in the provisional agenda for Cavtat 2004;
- agreement on the draft decision regarding the relationship between the Protocol and the Convention; and
- agreement to allow the Working Group on EIA to finalize remaining decisions.

The Meeting of Signatories to the Protocol is akin to the Working Group on EIA pending the Protocol's entry into force. A second meeting of the Signatories is scheduled for late April 2005, to be held in Geneva.

Meeting of the Working Group on EIA

The Working Group on EIA completed its preparations for the 3rd meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its 7th meeting, held in Geneva, 28-30 January 2004. The Working Group finalised a series of draft decisions and the draft Cavtat Declaration for consideration by the 3rd meeting of the Parties, and it agreed a provisional agenda for Cavtat 2004. The draft decisions are summarized below:

- a review of implementation, with several recommendations for improving implementation of the Convention;
- a review of compliance, with suggested changes to the mandate of the

- Implementation Committee;
- proposals for strengthening cooperation with other UNECE conventions;
- guidance on good practice and on bilateral and multilateral agreements;
- recommendations for strengthening subregional cooperation;
- a suggested information exchange mechanism for the Convention;
- a suggested second amendment to the Convention, with extensions to the list of activities covered, the introduction of scoping and other technical matters;
- guidance on public participation in transboundary EIA;
- a suggested budget together with new financial arrangements to provide more reliable and predictable funding for activities under the Convention;
- the work plan, as detailed below;
- recommendations on financial assistance to representatives of countries with economies in transition, of NGOs and of states outside the UNECE region; and
- recommendations regarding the relationship between the Espoo Convention and the SEA Protocol.

The work plan and corresponding budget address the following activities under both the Convention and the Protocol:

- Exchange of best practice in transboundary EIA;
- Subregional cooperation to strengthen contacts between the Parties to the Convention;
- Transboundary EIA capacity building in EECCA countries;
- Review of the implementation of the Convention;
- Examination of the substantive relationship between the Convention and the Protocol;
- SEA capacity building needs analysis in EECCA countries;
- Production of a capacity development manual and provision of training to support implementation of the Protocol;
- Institutional and procedural activities in preparation for the first "meeting of

the Parties to the Protocol".

In addition the budget is expected to cover:

- the next meeting of the Parties to the Convention;
- meetings of the Signatories to the Protocol and meetings of the Convention's Bureau, Working Group on EIA and Implementation Committee;
- additional secretariat support; and
- promotion of contacts with countries outside the UNECE region

The draft work plan and budget still need to be finalized for the Meeting of the Parties; this will be done on 1 June 2004 at the beginning of the Cavtat meeting.

The next (eighth) meeting of the Working Group is scheduled to be in Geneva, from 25 to 26 November 2004.

SEA Seminar at the REC

The **REC CEE** hosted a seminar in Szentendre, Hungary, 14 to 16 April 2004, entitled "Application of Directive 2001/42/EC in Spatial Planning in the Enlarged European Union: Key Challenges and Opportunities". The seminar focussed on

- integration of SEA into the elaboration of spatial plans;
- selection of appropriate SEA approaches and methodologies;
- design of effective public participation for land-use planning and SEA; and
- quality reviews of SEA in spatial planning.

Further information from Ausra Jurkeviciute (ajurkeviciute@rec.org) or look on the web site: www.rec.org/EnvironmentalAssessment.

UNDP Project on SEA

The **UN Development Programme's** Regional Centre for Europe and CIS is initiating a project on SEA Promotion and Capacity Building, together with the **REC CEE**. The project will support the development of a Capacity Development Manual for the SEA Protocol and is integrated into the draft work plan for the Convention (see above). UNDP is

implementing the Environmental Action Plan adopted by the Kiev Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' (May 2003). Contact Henrieta.Martonakova@undp.org or AJurkeviciute@rec.org (Ausra Jurkeviciute).



Environment & Health - Budapest

The Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health will be held in Budapest, Hungary, 23-25 June 2004. The conference Declaration is expected to support the ratification and implementation of the SEA Protocol and to promote the systematic treatment of health in the Protocol's application. A side event on the Protocol is being organized by **WHO, REC CEE** and **UNECE**. See www.euro.who.int/budapest2004.

Other news ...

- The **European Commission's** Directorate-General Enlargement organized a seminar on biodiversity and EIA, including a presentation on the Convention (Sofia, 26-27 April 2004).
- The secretariat has been invited by the **UN Environment Programme** (UNEP/MAP) to attend a joint meeting with the national focal points for the Mediterranean Action Plan, to exchange views on possible cooperation and accession to the Convention by southern Mediterranean countries (Tunis, 10-11 May 2004).
- The International Association for Impact Assessment will next year hold its annual meeting in Boston (USA) in the spring. Supplementing the main meeting will be a special SEA event to be held in Prague in the autumn of 2005 and to be organized by the **REC CEE**.

Posters

Many of you will have received both a poster for the Cavtat meeting and an information poster. Please contact the secretariat if you

have the opportunity to make good use of additional copies of the information poster, hopefully available in Russian later this year.

Calabash Project

The Southern African Institute of Environmental Assessment (www.saiea.com) has recently launched a project to improve the capacity of civil society in Southern Africa to participate in the environmental assessment (EA) process. The two-year "Calabash Project" is being supported by the World Bank and the Canadian International Development Agency. This project is all about trying to close the gap between the Southern African Development Community regulators and community-based organizations/communities with respect to public participation (PP) in EA. Calabash is meant to build a bridge between civil society and the regulators so that the public and local communities are invited and welcomed into the PP phase of the EA process. Planned project activities include research, an electronic library of EA and PP material, case study analysis, communication tools, methodology development, training and workshops. For more

information on Calabash, or how you can become involved, please contact Peter.Croal@saiea.com.

Meeting Documents

Reports on the workshops and meetings described above may be found on the Convention web site, www.unece.org/env/eia, together with other information on the Convention and SEA Protocol.

Next UPDATE / Русский

We hope to produce issue number 3 of UPDATE immediately before the meeting in Geneva, November 2004.

If you wish to contribute an article or news to UPDATE, please let us know - we will be as flexible as possible regarding deadlines.

We wish to publish UPDATE in English and Russian. Please contact the secretariat if you are able to assist by providing a free informal Russian translation of the English original.

Upcoming events

1-4 June 2004	3 rd Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, including 1 st Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, Cavtat (Croatia)
25-26 November 2004	8 th Meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment, Geneva



and up to date listing of events, visit the Convention web site at www.unece.org/env/eia.

NOT AN OFFICIAL RECORD.

This EIA/SEA UPDATE provides informal information on the: Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, and Kiev Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment.



Your news and views would be very welcome.

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