



18.12.2009
YM1/329/2009

Mr. Aleksandar Vesic
Chair, Bureau,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Dear Mr. Vesic,

In your letter of September 2009 you invited focal points under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to provide the secretariat with contact details and brief descriptions of relevant NGOs in their country. You also asked for an outline of any NGO capacity-building activities.

The Ministry of the Environment sets great store by public participation in transboundary EIA processes and supports the Bureau's effort to raise public awareness of the Convention and enhance the involvement of relevant NGOs in applying the Convention. Our standard procedure is to request comments from relevant national NGOs in all the transboundary EIA cases. Given the further encouragement by the Bureau, the Ministry of the Environment will continue its work to improve public awareness of the Convention and the opportunities that it offers for public participation. The Ministry, together with the Department for Development Policy of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, organizes annually a meeting with relevant NGOs operating in Finland in order to promote their opportunities for participating in environmental decision-making both nationally and internationally. As an example of the work on improving public awareness of the Convention, it is planned that at the 2010 meeting the NGOs will be reminded of the existence of the Convention and Protocol and the opportunities they offer for public participation. Additionally, the need for supporting material or other awareness-raising activities could be discussed at the meeting.

Please find attached the list of contact details with short descriptions of national NGOs that have taken part in transboundary EIA procedures, and including other relevant national NGOs in Finland.

Sincerely,

Ann-Britt Ylinen
Director, Bilateral and Regional Cooperation
Focal point for the Convention

cc: Seija Rantakallio, MoE
Lasse Tallskog, MoE

Annex

Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto (The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation) is the largest non-governmental organization for environmental protection and nature conservation in Finland. Its objectives include the promotion of sustainable production and consumption patterns and the protection of biodiversity. The association also publishes the periodical *Suomen Luonto* (Nature of Finland).

The SLL has about 30,000 individual members in 203 local associations, which are organized in 15 regional districts. Under the SLL is the Nature League (Luonto-Liitto), which functions as a nationwide youth organization, with about 4,000 members.

Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto ry
Kotkankatu 9
FI-00510 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 9 228 081
Fax: +358 9 228 08 200
E-mail: toimisto@sll.fi
<http://www.sll.fi/>

WWF's global objective is to stop the increasing degradation of our planet's biological diversity, thus building a future where people can live in harmony with nature. WWF Finland is working towards this goal both in Finland and internationally. WWF's conservation work is mainly focused on the most valuable natural areas with outstanding biodiversity — the Global 200 ecoregions.

WWF
Lintulahdenkatu 10
FI-00500 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 9 7740 100
Fax: +358 9 7740 2139
E-mail: info@wwf.fi
<http://www.wwf.fi>

Natur och Miljö (The Finnish Society for Nature and Environment) is a national Swedish-speaking environmental organization in Finland. FSNE's activities include various campaign activities, raising awareness about environmental issues, participation in governmental committees and positively influencing the public opinion on environmental matters. The organization also publishes the periodical *Finlands Natur* (Finnish Nature) and runs two nature schools in Finland. FSNE has 22 local groups and some 4000 members who mostly belong to the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland. Activities are financed by membership fees, governmental contributions and grants from private foundations.

Natur och Miljö
Annankatu 26
FI-00100 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 9 6122 290
Fax: +358 9 6122 2910
E-mail: kansliet@naturochmiljo.fi
<http://www.naturochmiljo.fi/sve/>

Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organization that acts to change attitudes and behavior, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace. Greenpeace Nordic is part of the global organization. It is a non-governmental, non-profit organization with offices in Stockholm, Helsinki, Copenhagen and Oslo. The organization is Swedish registered.

Greenpeace
Iso Roobertinkatu 20-22 A
FI-00120 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 9 6229 2200
Fax: +358 9 6229 2222
E-mail: info@nordic.greenpeace.org
<http://www.greenpeace.org/finland>

Dodo is an organization that approaches environmental issues in an open-minded way, trying to find new perspectives. Dodo organizes public events, discussion groups and projects. The organization was founded in July 1995.

Dodo ry
Vironkatu 5
FI-00170 Helsinki, Finland
FINLAND
Tel: +358 9 6220 0662
E-mail: info@dodo.org
<http://www.dodo.org/>

Maan ystävät (Friends of the Earth Finland), which was established in 1996, is an environmental NGO with a social perspective. It belongs to the Friends of the Earth International network.

Friends of the Earth
Kirkkotie 6-10
FI-20540 Turku, Finland
Tel: +358 2 2310321
Fax: +358 2 2371670
E-mail: toimisto@maanystavat.fi
<http://www.maanystavat.fi>

Luonto-Liitto (Nature League) is a nationwide non-governmental nature and environmental protection organization for children and young people. Most of its members are between 5 and 29 years of age. The organization is both politically and organizationally independent. The Nature League has about 7 000 members in eight regional and two local organizations in Finland. Its mission is a society where natural biodiversity and the intrinsic value of nature are acknowledged and respected.

Luonto-Liitto
Annankatu 26 A
FI-00100 Helsinki, Finland
Tel: +358 9 684 4420
Fax: +358 9 684 44 222
E-mail: toimisto@luontoliitto.fi
<http://luontoliitto.fi/>

Depending on the project, other local organizations and special interest groups are also potential participants in EIA procedures. Such organizations include, for example, the local associations of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation.