



# Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)

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# Espoo Convention Status



## ENVIRONMENT



- Adopted in Espoo (Finland) in **1991**
- In force since **1997**
- **45 Parties** across UNECE region, including EU
  - RUS and US are Signatories
- Amended in 2001 to become global but 4 pending ratifications by: **ARM, BEL, MKD, UK**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> (2004) amendment: extended scope, formalized compliance review & mandatory reporting (9 Parties still to ratify: **ARM, BY, BEL, BIH, IRE, KAZ, KYRG, MKD, UK**)

# Espoo Convention

## Developments and achievements



### ENVIRONMENT

- Routinely applied in UNECE region. Has influenced legislation and practice also in other regions
- Effectively prevents & minimizes cross-border damage to environment (air, water, biodiversity, climate, soil) from projects, enhances international cooperation and environmental governance
- Extensive capacity building and legislative assistance to 11 countries 2001-2023 (Bilateral agreement UA-ROM (Nov. 2022))
- Since 2001, Implementation Committee assists Parties in effective implementation: in 2021-23: 53 compliance cases, incl. on life-time extension of NPPs
- Active subregional cooperation and exchange of good practice: in 2021-23: Report on synergies and cooperation proposals to protect marine regions, prepared in consultation with 6 regional sea conventions/bodies (with ITA funding)
- Parties' mandatory reporting summarized in reviews of implementation (latest 2019-2021)

# Espoo Convention

## Lessons and challenges



### ENVIRONMENT

- Extreme resource constraints for servicing core work of the Convention + its Protocol; future capacity-building and outreach
- Increasing accessions + implementation within and beyond the UNECE region
- Diversity of Parties' views/interests within + between countries, e.g. re. transboundary EIA of LTE of NPPs
- Making full use of the treaties potential to address global, regional goals and commitments
- Links between green taxonomies and impact assessment would benefit from clarification

# Espoo Convention Plans and prospects



## ENVIRONMENT

- 9th MOP session (Geneva, 12-15 Dec. 2023)
  - High-level panel on energy transition, circular economy and green financing
  - Compliance decisions e.g. on LTE of NPPs
- MOP to strengthen the secretariat or to scale down meetings and activities 2024-2026 and beyond.
- Secretariat's capacity building work (2003-2024) discontinued but bilateral and partner organization's support builds on it
- Global opening likely in 2024-2026
- Subregional work extended to Mediterranean region



ENVIRONMENT



**Thank you!**



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