

Bringing Espoo Convention to Citizens

This is the title of the project started on June 1st, 2018 by three organisations, namely European ECO Forum, Resource & Analysis Center "Society and Environment" (RACSE) and Oekobuero (Austria). The project primarily aims at countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).

The project objectives are:

- To raise awareness of civil society organisations in EECCA about the developments under the Espoo Convention and its SEA Protocol, as well as about tools they may use to have their voice heard and environment protected;
- To strengthen their capacity to act by enhancing exchange of best practices and advising them on obstacles they face.

More information on our website: <http://www.eco-forum.org/espoo>

The project is funded by the German Federal Environmental Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP) for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union. It is supervised by the German Environment Agency (UBA).

The responsibility for the content of this Newsflash lies with the authors.



December 2018

- Extraordinary MOP of Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol in February 2019
- European ECO forum hosts a regional conference on Espoo Convention

Extraordinary MOP of Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol

On February 5th-7th, 2019, the intersessional Meeting of the Parties (i-MOP) to the Espoo Convention and the SEA Protocol will take place in Geneva. The deadline for delegates to [register online](#) is January 8th, 2019.

Within the first part of the meeting, the workplan as well as compliance, implementation and the activities of the Implementation Committee will be reviewed. The compliance and nuclear-related issues are at the core of this session. Last time, Espoo MOP in Minsk was unable to finalize and adopt relevant decisions. In particular, this resulted in a new format for decisions on compliance and implementation, which are now separated into general decision, decisions by countries and by issues to enable separate decision-making. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review and finalize draft decision IS/2 on the application of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants.

A new election candidate for the Chair of the high-level segment is the Ambassador of Norway (the Permanent Representative of Norway to the UNO and other international organizations in Geneva), Mr. Hans Brattskja.

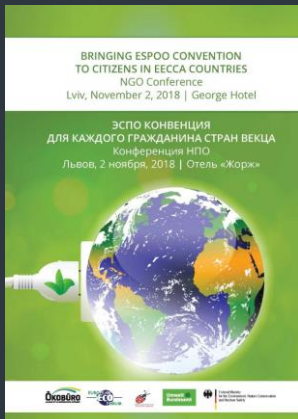
A side-event on transboundary EIA of coal and lignite related activities organised by the NGO ClientEarth will be held on February 6th during the lunch break.

During the high-level segment of the meeting, CSO may make statements with a time limit of 3 minutes. Plans to make a statement need to be indicated in advance to the secretariat. A copy of each statement should be submitted by January 29th, 2019.

By January 23rd, participants are requested to provide valid credentials, signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs, [via e-mail](#) (the originals should be presented on arrival).

All documents relevant for the i-MOP, including the draft agenda and sample credentials, are available online on the [meeting webpage](#) (currently only in English; by January 2019 also in Russian and French).





European ECO Forum hosts a regional conference on Espoo Convention

On November 2, 2018, the European ECO Forum organized a conference for non-governmental organizations from 11 countries of the EECCA region. The conference was held in Lviv (Ukraine) with the support of the German Environment Agency (UBA).

The [agenda](#) of the conference included four sessions: introductory (which had a capacity building element), cooperation platform (to discuss the on-line platform and share experience of participants), thematic session (themes included Green economy, Water, Energy & Transport, Biodiversity) and future cooperation (plans for the future). An overall concept of the conference arrangement was world café format: this allowed presentations from experts and group discussions.

Apart from various [presentations](#) by NGO experts, the participants discussed how Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol can be relevant in their thematic work and what challenges can be addressed in those areas by using the tools offered by these two international legal instruments.

The participants also highlighted two relevant problems in the region: shrinking democratic space in some countries and persecution of environmental activists.

There was a lot of enthusiasm about future work, in particular if cross-country pilot projects could be implemented by environmental NGOs focusing on shared river resources and other issues.

The conference was organized as part of the project "Brining Espoo Convention to citizens" implemented by Resource & Analysis Center "Society and Environment" together with Oekoburo under the auspices of the European ECO Forum.



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