

Horizontal Environmental EC Legislation

A Short Policy Guide



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1 Introduction

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was created in 2003/2004 and is now well established as the principal vehicle for cooperation with the neighbour countries. It is a collective EU response to the aspirations of its Eastern and Southern neighbours to jointly promote prosperity, stability and security in our region.

The recent historic enlargement of the EU in 2004 and 2007 contributed to the creation of a large zone of democracy and prosperity in Europe. The political, economic, social and environmental gaps between the Union and its neighbours to the East – Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and the Southern Caucasus, and to the South, in the Mediterranean region, are worryingly large and in certain cases increasing. The EU wants to prevent the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours.

The European Neighbourhood Policy represents a new approach in the EU's relations with its neighbours. This "partnership for reform" is offered by the EU to 16 partner countries to the South and to the East of the EU¹. It goes beyond classical co-operation: it consists of intensified political dialogue and deeper economic relations, based on shared values and common interest in tackling common problems. The ENP is not about membership of the EU – if an accession perspective were to be offered at some point in the future to any of the countries covered by the ENP, this would be a separate process.

The necessary legal and institutional framework for intensified cooperation with ENP partners are Partnership and Cooperation Agreements or Association Agreements. The tools, however, to deliver concrete results are jointly agreed, tailor-made ENP Action Plans² with short and medium term priorities (3–5 years). They cover a wide range of issues: political dialogue and macro-economic reforms, trade, co-operation in Justice, Liberty and Security, various sector-policies (transport, energy, environment and climate change, research, information society, social policy and employment) as well as a deep human dimension – people to people contacts, education, health, civil society. The ENP Action Plans also provide a means of technical and financial support in the partner's own reform efforts and modernisation.

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), as a "policy driven" financial instrument, will support in the period 2007–2013 the implementation of the ENP Action Plans, and, in the case of Russian Federation, which is not covered by the ENP³, the road-maps for the four common spaces. In that context, it goes further than promoting sustainable development and fighting poverty to encompass, for example, considerable support for measures leading to progressive participation in the EU's internal market. Legislative and regulatory convergence and institution building is supported through mechanisms such as the exchange of experience, long term twinning arrangements with Member States or participation in Community programmes and agencies. The ENPI replaces MEDA and TACIS and other existing geographical and thematic instruments.

The Commission has set up a web-site explaining the ENP and its processes and containing key ENP documents such as the Strategy Papers, the Action Plans and Progress Reports. Please refer to: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm.

ENP partner countries are expected to benefit considerably from full implementation of the ENP Action Plans, including from enhanced convergence with the EU approaches. For benefits resulting from enhanced environment protection, including convergence, please refer to Chapter 3.

¹ Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine.

² With exception of Algeria, Belarus, Libya and Syria ENP Action Plans have been agreed with all the countries mentioned

³ The EU and Russia are linked by the Strategic Partnership.

In order to help partner countries to realise these benefits, the European Commission has decided to provide information on EU environment policy and legislation in key policy areas. To this end, the European Commission has initiated the production of **six short guides** on the following topics:

- **Water quality**, with a focus on the Water Framework Directive and related developments, such as the Flood Directive or the Groundwater Directive;
- **Waste management**, with a focus on the Waste Framework Directive;
- **Air quality**, with a focus on the Framework and Daughter Directives;
- Environmental **Impact Assessment**, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Access to Information, Participation in Decision-Making, and Reporting;
- **Nature protection**, with a focus on the Habitats and Birds Directives (e.g. cross-border co-operation) and the Natura 2000 network (e.g. ways to establish measures or monitoring);
- **Industrial pollution**, including the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive.

Where relevant the guides address the seven Thematic Strategies under the 6th Environment Action Programme (EAP).⁴ The Thematic Strategies constitute the framework for action at EU level in each of the concerned priorities and cover the following fields: soil and the marine environment (in the priority area of biodiversity), air, pesticides and urban environment (in the priority area of environment, health and quality of life) and natural resources and waste recycling (in the priority area of natural resources and waste).⁵

Climate change issues are becoming an increasingly important component of the EU's environmental cooperation with partner countries, which bilateral dialogues will increasingly address. Documents on this crucial topic of common interest will be issued separately from this series of guides.

The **purpose** of this policy guide on horizontal environmental EC legislation is to provide information on EU policy and legislation by describing the policy background and explaining how progress can be achieved through the prioritisation and sequencing of activities. The guide shows how gradual or partial convergence with the EU environment policy and legislation can assist the ENP partner countries and Russia in addressing environmental concerns.

The policy guide sets out the key principles and concepts of the relevant pieces of legislation and outlines the main policy instruments used within the EU. This includes summarising the main provisions of the legislation. The guide also addresses the current general policy situation of Eastern and Mediterranean ENP partners and looks at potential challenges to convergence. Finally, it identifies useful steps to be taken to promote convergence. Since the individual situation in partner countries varies considerably, the guides take a general approach and references to specific countries are not made. The relevance of full or partial convergence is also to be seen in this light.

⁴ For the 6th EAP please refer to: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/index.htm>.

⁵ For the seven Thematic Strategies please refer to: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/newprg/strategies_en.htm.

2 In a Nutshell

The problems that this policy aims to address

- Without access to information and participation in decision-making, democratic decision-making is unthinkable. Furthermore, lack of information prevents citizens from making important choices based on the given information. Lack of information also hinders participation in decision-making, as only informed citizens can take action in an appropriate way. Without establishing a right to access to information, citizens do not have the possibility to claim access to that information.
- ENP partner countries are going through a phase of economic restructuring and development. This includes a number of new development projects usually associated with negative environmental impacts, such as displacement of flora and fauna, degradation of water bodies and destruction of land.
- Similar to the project level, negative environmental impacts are also likely to arise at the planning and programme level, such as policies to increase highway surface or construction of new housing developments.

How the policy addresses these problems

- The Access to Information Directive establishes the right to access information and sets out clear conditions on how environmental information must be provided.
- The Reporting Directive outlines regular reporting requirements.
- The Environmental Impacts Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) Directives address development issues by:
 - determining which projects, plans and programmes need to be assessed (i.e. those with potentially significant environmental impacts),
 - setting the framework to uniformly address potential environmental impacts in order to minimise pressures on the environment,
 - in the case of SEA, requiring the analysis of alternatives in order to choose the best design with respect to environmental concerns,
 - requiring public participation (also by way of the Directive for providing for public participation in EIA).

Benefits to be expected include

Information and participation is key for democratic policy-making. Furthermore, access to environmental information not only helps the public to get a picture of the environmental situation and may help to avoid environmentally induced diseases but also is a precondition for participation. Participation in turn allows for the public to influence decision-making in the respective cases. Reporting on implementation of environmental legislation increases transparency and accountability.

With regard to EIA and SEA, convergence may lead to the following benefits:

- better frameworks for assessing the environmental impacts of projects, plans, and programmes,
- improvement in project design through the wider consideration of impacts and alternatives that minimise impacts,
- introducing the concept of strategic environmental impact assessment increases the efficiency of tiered decision-making (including strengthening EIA),
- increased transparency through public participation and consultation requirements (also by way of the Directive for providing for public participation in EIA),
- improved co-ordination among government agencies as well as stakeholders.

3 Expected Benefits of Convergence

Convergence to EU legislation has the potential to bring a number of benefits to ENP partner countries. By observing previous approximation processes from accession countries, the main benefits from converging to EU environmental legislation have been identified, such as

- health (reduction in illnesses),
- social (safeguarding cultural heritage and recreational opportunities) and
- economic (e.g. eco-efficiency gains and attracting investment), as well as
- ecosystem (benefits to the environment without economic interest) and natural resources benefits (forestry, fisheries, agriculture).

The benefits of convergence on horizontal legislation are not that easy to pinpoint, as it largely concerns a country's administrative, permitting and planning procedures and does not have direct environmental impacts. However, progress in the Member States has shown that compliance with these EU provisions can lead to a number of benefits.

Access to environmental information is precondition for citizens to get a picture of their local environmental situation. This may be the basis for decisions such as whether to move to or from a certain area. Furthermore, access to environmental information is a precondition for participation. **Reporting** on implementation of environmental legislation increases transparency and accountability.

As mentioned in chapter 2, the **EIA and SEA Directives** have contributed to improving development projects, plans and programmes significantly in the EU Member States. Specifically, as shown in Box 2 with the example from Finland, EIA's have been shown to increase the quality of project design, as alternatives and impacts to the environment are considered more when an EIA is undertaken. Benefits arising from undertaking SEA include allowing for a wider consideration of impacts and alternatives and strengthening the EIA through tiered decision-making (i.e. by requiring an examination of environmental impacts during the design phase of a project), the actual EIA itself is straightforward and fewer changes to the project are made at this phase. SEAs, which provide for a systematic review of environmental issues, improve planning by clarifying potentially significant environmental impacts and creating a better balance between environmental, social and economic factors, thus improving decision-making as well. The **Directive for providing for public participation in respect of EIA (2003/35)**, enhances transparency and increase legitimacy of plans, programmes, and individual projects.

Moreover, it is important to view such benefits not only with respect to changes in the overall environmental situation of a country, but also with respect to increasing a country's position for receiving international development aid. In particular, infrastructure investments are only likely to be granted under the condition of prior environmental assessments. Some development banks and agencies, such as the World Bank, require beneficiary countries to use similar impact assessment systems and procedures in order to receive financial aid for projects. ENP countries may face barriers to receiving development aid if their environmental impact assessment systems are deemed inadequate by the donor agency. Although the EU does not require countries to comply with EU regulations in order to receive project funding, converging to the EU's EIA and SEA Directives can help a given country improve their system so that they can receive aid from those banks and agencies that do have those requirements.

In both the Mediterranean and Eastern region programs have been established to guide and improve environmental policies. In the Mediterranean region the Mediterranean Environmental Assistance Programme (METAP)⁶ was established.

METAP's EIA project, launched in January 1999, has brought together country representatives from various stakeholder organisations to improve the assessment system, as environmental protection is ineffective without proper legislative and administrative frameworks.

Box 1: Benefits already seen in ENP partner countries:

Since the start of the **METAP program**, a number of improvements in the EIA systems of these countries have been identified:

- Lebanon: enhanced co-ordination between ministries involved in environmental management
- Jordan: amendments to the draft EIA by-law that reflect the underlying principles of impact assessments identified
- Tunisia: implementation of a new system of defining standard requirements for small and medium sized projects
- Egypt: revisions to its EIA system for small and medium sized developments
- Palestine: revisions to its EIA national policy due to recommendations of the METAP project

Overall, receptivity towards introducing public participation has increased.

Benefits of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive

In a study conducted by the European Commission in 1996 Member States were asked to evaluate the benefits seen from implementing the EIA Directive. Case studies from Greece, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK indicated that the EIA process had in fact positively impacted the decision-making process⁷. The following summarises the responses these Member States gave with respect to benefits:

- key environmental issues had been identified in 94% of cases;
- the quality of the project design had been improved in 83% of the case studies;
- higher standards of mitigation had been achieved than would otherwise have been expected in 83% of cases;
- a better framework for preparing conditions and legal agreements to govern future operation of the project had been provided in 72% of cases;
- environmental concerns had been incorporated from an earlier stage in the design process in 61% of cases;
- better decision-making had been achieved in 61% or more of the case studies due to :
 - a more systematic and structured framework for analysis,
 - more objective and credible information,
 - increased rigour in evaluating environmental information,
- the environmental credibility of the developer had been enhanced in 61% of cases;
- environmentally sensitive areas had been avoided through project re-siting or re-design in 56% of cases.

⁶ See www.metap.org for further information.

⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-studies-and-reports/eia-costs-benefit-en.htm>

Box 2: Benefits of EIA in Europe – Country Examples

Finland Highway project

Highway 1, which is part of the TEN-T network⁸ and links Nordic capitals to Russia and Central Europe, was not fulfilling capacity requirements and considered unsafe due to current road design. Interest in building a new motorway to solve these problems resulted in an EIA in order to assess different options. By undertaking an EIA, the developers were able to compare two options, to build a new road or to upgrade the existing one. An EIA was required because the road passes through important natural areas, and any modification could result in significant environmental impacts. Through the examination of potential environmental impacts, the developers were able to identify their chosen design, which was to build a new motorway, and to mitigate negative environmental impacts. Modifications to the project design included building a tunnel to save an important recreation area, small changes to the design in order to reduce impacts on flying squirrel habitat, groundwater areas were protected, terrain modification for noise control, and limitations on construction during the fish spawning season and nesting season for birds. Since an EIA was conducted, the project design was accepted with fewer reservations by stakeholders, and the plan had little opposition. This case study is a good example of how undertaking an EIA can reduce environmental impacts to an acceptable level.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/pdf/05_24_02_eai_case.pdf.

The EIA of Billund Airport (Denmark)

Denmark's Billund airport wanted to extend its capacity without increasing the noise on surrounding homes. In order to reduce noise levels, the initial plan was to extend one of the runways northwards. However, through the EIA process, which was marked by a high level of co-operation between developers and the public, alternatives were discussed and the outcome resulted in a change of plan. The EIA concluded that the same reduction in noise levels could be achieved by modifying the airport's take-off procedure. By not having to undertake any new construction, the alternative plan saved 40.4 million €. Additionally, approximately 350 hectares of farmland and forest area were preserved, and the number of homes exposed to noise was reduced from 1,290 to 328. This example shows how the EIA process can actually save taxpayer money. Furthermore, by identifying and choosing an alternative that does not result in additional environmental impacts, the project proposal received no complaints and the project was able to avoid delays.

Source: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/03/316&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.

Benefits of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

Since its implementation, a number of benefits from the SEA process have been identified:

- SEA allows for a wider consideration of impacts and alternatives;
- SEA is a proactive tool that can support strategic action for formulation for sustainable development;
- SEA can increase the efficiency of tiered decision-making (including strengthening EIA);
- SEA allows for a systematic and effective consideration of the environment at higher tiers of decision-making;
- SEA provides an avenue for public participation and consultation.

For example, in Austria the SEA for a waste management plan for Vienna resulted in a sound management plan that not only examined the issue of new plant design, but also discussed how the city could reduce its waste output. See Box 5 for full information.

⁸ The TEN-T, the trans-European transport network, comprises road, railways, inland waterways, airports, seaports, inland ports, and traffic management systems within the EU. The Community guidelines for this network are laid out in Decision N° 1692/96/EC, corresponding to the 1999 EC Treaty, in which Articles 154-156 state that the European Union must aim to promote the development of trans-European networks as a key element for the creation of the Internal Market and the reinforcement of Economic and Social Cohesion. This development includes the interconnection and interoperability of national networks as well as access to such networks.

Box 3: Benefits of SEA in Europe – Country Example

SEA Implementation for Viennese Waste Management Plan

Vienna, Austria was experiencing significant increases in the volume of waste in the city resulting in bottlenecks at treatment facilities. In order to alleviate the growing waste problem and enhance their management plans, an SEA was undertaken, with the goal of solving their problem by 2010. Within the SEA process, the Vienna City Council engaged a wide range of stakeholders to participate in their Round Table discussions, including relevant authorities, representatives of the “qualified” public and external experts. This strategy group took not only environmental issues into account, but also economic and social aspects. Through the SEA process, the group came up with a plan of waste avoidance as well as the establishment of new waste facilities, including the addition of a fermentation plant for biogas. This example shows how engaging various stakeholders and experts can lead to an efficient SEA process and achieve results least harmful to the environment. “This cooperative and participative approach should make sure, that the best solution for the management of Vienna’s waste was found on the basis of a broad consensus.”⁹ Furthermore, by looking at environmental issues during the planning stage, the EIA’s for the new treatment facilities were very efficient and effective, as many questions were already answered in the SEA. By following the SEA guidelines, the decision-making process was improved through constant evaluation. As a result, the Vienna City Council followed the recommendations of the SEA.

Source: Arbter, Kerstin (2001): Wissenschaftliche Begleitstudie zur. Strategischen Umweltprüfung (SUP). Zum Wiener Abfallwirtschaftsplan. Endbericht. Wien, Dezember 2001.

Mid-Wales: Benefits seen from SEA Implementation

The Mid-Wales region in Wales was having difficulties with power failures due to interruptions in power supply. In response to this issue, ScottishPower, the main supplier of electricity in the region, undertook an SEA to find best possible solutions to providing a more dependable electricity service. The first step was to concretise the plan’s objectives with respect to potentially significant environmental implications, including objectives with respect to regional cultural heritage and conservation areas nearby. In co-operation with regional agencies as well as environmental groups, the SEA was able to identify three additional alternatives to the three ScottishPower had initially considered. Each of the alternatives was analysed with respect to environmental, social and economic impacts. The plan chosen was one of the alternatives identified in the SEA planning process. By analysing every alternative, ScottishPower was able to legitimise its plan decision. Although the final plan did not result in the least number of negative environmental effects, it stayed true to the plan’s initial environmental objectives, namely avoiding impacts to conservation areas. Environmental stakeholders were thus satisfied with the results, making it easier to begin development. This case study is a good example of how the analysis of alternatives can help set priorities with respect to environmental impacts. As the alternative chosen was not one initially proposed by the company, this case study also highlights how an SEA can bring innovation to plans and projects.

Source: Schmidt, Michael; Joao, Elsa; Albrecht, Eike (Eds.). (2005): Implementing Strategic Environmental Assessments. Series: Environmental Protection in the European Union, Vol. 2. Singer-Verlag: Berlin.

⁹ Arbter, Kerstin (2001): Wissenschaftliche Begleitstudie zur. Strategischen Umweltprüfung (SUP). Zum Wiener Abfallwirtschaftsplan. Endbericht. Wien, Dezember 2001, p.4.

4 Overview of EU Policy

The horizontal sector comprises environmental legislation on subjects that cut across other environmental legislation and the environmental media such as water, air or soil. In contrast to the media-related legislation, the horizontal legislation is procedural in character and provides for methods and mechanisms aimed at improving decision-making, legislative development and implementation.

Horizontal EU legislation on the environment addressed in this guide comprises:

- **Access to Information Directive:** Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC;
- **Reporting Directive:** Council Directive of 23 December 1991 standardising and rationalising reports on the implementation of certain Directives relating to the environment (91/692/EEC);
- **Environmental Impact Assessment Directive:** Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by the Council Directive 97/11/EC of 3 March 1997;
- **Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive:** Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment;
- **Directive providing for public participation in EIA:** Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 providing for public participation with respect to the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment and amending with regard to public participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC.

4.1 Access to Information Directive

Public authorities hold data and information on a wide range of environmental matters that have often been collected over long periods in order to carry out their various legal responsibilities. Examples of the type of data collected are rainfall and other climatic data, water quality, information on flora and fauna, data in connection with development approval, licensing, permitting and related consents, air and water pollution from dangerous substances emissions and discharges and land contamination. This information, however, is not only of value to the work of the public authorities but also for the general public as an input to

- make decisions about their way of life,
- contribute to informed debate about environmental protection activities, and,
- support measures to improve the environment.

The Access to Information Directive was adopted by the EU in order to implement the Aarhus Convention, signed on 25 June 1998, in particular the pillar related to access to environmental information. The European Community and 24 Member States are parties to this convention.

The aim of the Access to Information Directive is to further the goal of contributing to a greater awareness of environmental matters by

- guaranteeing to members of public, without their having to state an interest, the right of **access to environmental information** held by or for public authorities and set out the basic terms, conditions of and practical arrangements for its exercise, and
- ensuring that environmental information is progressively **made available and disseminated** to the public, in particular by computer technology.

The Directive sets out to *whom* public authorities must make *what* information relating to the environment available and *which public authorities* are obliged to do so. The obligation to provide access to environmental information also applies to bodies which have public responsibilities for the environment and which are under the control of public authorities. To this end, public authorities need to ensure that lists of these bodies are available to the public. Information must be provided as soon as possible or, at the latest, within one month after the receipt of the application. This deadline may be extended up to two months, in particular because of its volume or complexity. Public authorities may make a reasonable charge for supplying any environmental information. Access to public registers and examination in situ has to be free of charge. The Directive however, also sets out, when request for information may be refused and under which conditions. If a request is refused on the grounds set out in the Directive, the authority needs to give reasons. The envisaged grounds for refusal have to be interpreted in a restrictive way, taking into account for the particular case the public interest served by disclosure. If persons consider that their request for information has been unreasonably ignored or inadequately answered, they should get access to judicial or administrative review that must be indicated by the authority.

Providing access to information in the sense of the Directive goes beyond the **passive provision of information**. It also implies the **active dissemination** of environmental information related to applicable environmental laws, policies, plans, programmes, progress reports, state of the environment reports and monitoring data. Public authorities have to ensure that any information compiled by them or on their behalf is up to date, accurate and comparable. Upon request, they inform the applicant as to where, if available, information on the measurement procedures, including methods of analysis, sampling and pre-treatment of samples used or those standardised procedures used in compiling relevant elements of environmental information can be found.

4.2 Reporting Directive

Since many Directives set out reporting requirements on progress of their implementation, the aim of this Directive is to rationalise and improve the way in which information is transmitted to the Commission. Most Directives – with exemption of the Bathing Water Directive – require reports to the Commission every three years.

Although it may not seem necessary for ENP partner countries to comply with the reporting Directive, convergence is expected to trigger the following benefits:

- In those ENP partner countries currently restructuring their environmental legislation, convergence with EU requirements on reporting may serve as a helpful benchmark for their own activities and it may help to introduce a consistent domestic reporting approach;
- Converging to the EU reporting obligations will help ENP partner countries with showing progress under the ENP Action Plans. This is of special interest, because when monitoring demonstrates significant progress in attaining the agreed objectives, the EU offers to review its incentives on offer, the Action Plans adapted, or may offer further proposals as regards future relations.

The Directive requires Member States to send information to the Commission on implementation of the Directives listed in Annexes I to VI of the Directive within specified time limits. To this end reports the Commission provides a relevant questionnaire or outline on which the reports should be based.

4.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Directives

Since the concept of environmental impact assessments (EIA) had first emerged in the 1970's, various regions in the world have introduced EIA laws. The EU adopted its Council Directive 85/337/EEC¹⁰ on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (i.e. the EU EIA Directive) in 1985. EIAs were born out of the need to assess environmental aspects in the decision-making process of large development projects. The idea of environmental impact assessments is based on the precautionary principle and the principle that preventative action should be taken (Box 4). Environmental measures to guard the environment from negative effects should be taken as early on in decision-making as possible.

Box 4: Precautionary and Preventative Action Principle

First developed in Germany as the Vorsorgeprinzip, meaning foresight, the precautionary principle has gained international momentum since the 1970's. This principle has been used in various international agreements, including the Rio Declaration, and was internalised into European Law with the 1992 Maastricht Treaty¹¹, in which Art.130r(2) states that "Community policy on the environment [...] shall be based on the precautionary principle and on the principles that preventative action should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay." The Commission elaborated a Communication on the precautionary principle on 2ND February 2000¹². This Communication was supported by other Institutions. The precautionary principle includes the following components:

- taking precautionary action before scientific certainty of cause and effect;
- setting goals – planning based on goals rather than future scenarios or risk calculations;
- seeking out and evaluating alternatives;
- shifting burdens of proof – developers should prove that their actions will not cause undue harm;
- developing more democratic and through decision-making criteria and methods.

From the first introduction of its EIA Directive the EU discussed the formulation of a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in order to take environmental issues into account earlier, at the planning stage. The Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (i.e. the EU SEA Directive) came into force in 2001. Based on similar principles as an EIA (i.e. precautionary principle), the SEA takes the analysis of environmental impacts further by undertaking the analysis at the planning stage of plans and programmes as opposed to at the project stage when plans have already been decided on (Box 5). A SEA must "improve, rather than just analyse the policy, plan or programme"¹³, as well as identify and comparatively assess feasible alternatives. In addition to the precautionary principle and public participation and consultation, the SEA has also incorporated the principle of achieving sustainable development, an idea which is lacking in the EIA.

¹⁰ Amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC

¹¹ WWF (2002): Promoting the socio-economic benefits of Natura 2000.

¹² COM (2000) 1 of 2nd February 2000.

¹³ Schmidt, Michael; Joao, Elsa; Albrecht, Eike (Eds.) (2005): Implementing Strategic Environmental Assessments. Series: Environmental Protection in the European Union, Vol. 2. Singer-Verlag: Berlin, p.7.

Box 5: Plans and Programmes vs. Individual Projects

Though the SEA Directive does not define the terms plan or programme it provides guiding criteria. The SEA Directive refers to plans and programmes required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions and are subject to the preparation and adoption by a governmental authority, such as national strategy plans or land use plans. On the other hand, individual projects refer to a concrete project within such strategy or land use plans, such as the building of an airport or the construction of a new highway. For example, if a country prepares a national environmental action plan for spatial planning this plan needs to undertake a SEA. Then, within this overarching strategy, a project to widen a specific river to make space for flooding requires an EIA. The following provides examples for plans and programmes:

- Management plans for the following sectors:
 - agriculture
 - forestry
 - fisheries
 - energy
 - transport
 - waste
 - water
 - telecommunications
 - tourism
 - regional and town planning
 - land use
- Any plan that sets the framework for EIA projects
- Comprehensive spatial plans for regional and municipal development
- Mega-projects such as coastal reconstruction or flood plans
- Plans affecting areas under the Habitat and Birds Directive

4.3.1 The EIA Directive

The purpose of EIA is to provide information for decision-makers and the public on the environmental consequences of proposed actions and to promote environmentally sound development through the identification of appropriate enhancement and mitigation measures. The principle objective of the EIA is to identify potentially significant environmental impacts of individual development projects. Within this aim, the EIA seeks to:

- improve the environmental design of the proposal;
- ensure that resources are used appropriately and efficiently;
- identify appropriate measures for mitigating the potential impacts of the proposal; and
- facilitate informed decision making, including setting the environmental terms and conditions for implementing the proposal.

By identifying potential environmental aspects, the EIA seeks to protect environmental resources for current and future generations. The Directive has been amended by Directive 97/11/EC. The changes are less an amendment and more a transformation with the aim to improve the coverage of projects to be assessed and the information to be included in the assessment.

Implementation of the EIA Directive has also to take into account the requirements of the Directive for providing for public participation in respect of EIA [2003/35/EC] (see Chapter 4.4).

The Directive lays down rules for the environmental impact assessment procedure. The following is a description of the stages of an EIA:

- **Screening:** In the screening phase, the competent authority has to decide whether an EIA is required or not. Annexes 1 and 2 of the Directive compile projects for which an EIA is either compulsory or voluntary.¹⁴ Projects listed in Annex 1 require an EIA. Projects listed in Annex 2 can be subjected to an EIA based on individual Member State decisions.

¹⁴ Projects subject to an EIA include: crude-oil refineries, thermal and nuclear power stations, installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel, integrated works for smelting of iron and steel, integrated chemical installations, construction of railways, airports, motorways, inland waterways, waste disposal installations, industrial plants, dams, groundwater abstraction, desalination installations, gas and oil pipelines, etc.

- **Scoping:** The scoping phase serves to identify potential significant environmental impacts that need to be analysed in detail. This includes an identification of all activities or sources of impact, the potentially affected characteristics of the project environment and the expected interactions between these two. The scoping exercise is to be undertaken by the project developer.
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** The environmental impact statement is at the heart of the whole process and is to be prepared by the developer who may subcontract this task. The environmental impact statement includes
 - (a) a **description of the project:** description of the physical characteristics of the whole project and land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases; description of the main characteristics of the production processes;
 - (b) where appropriate, an **outline of the main alternatives** studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for his/her choice, taking into account the environmental effects;
 - (c) a **description of aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected** by the project (needs to include human beings, fauna, flora, soil, water, air climate, landscape, material assets and cultural heritage as well as the interaction between all factors);
 - (d) a **description of the likely effects of the project on the environment** resulting from the existence of the project (use of natural resources, emission of pollutants and waste disposal, description of forecasting methods used to assess effects);
 - (e) a description of **potential mitigation efforts**;
 - (f) a non-technical **summary**;
 - (g) an indication of **unknowns** or **difficulties** (if any).
- **Consultation:** Member States have to consult with relevant environmental authorities and with the public. Information on the development consent, the decision for requiring an EIA, and environmental impact assessment reports have to be made available to the public.
- **Decision-making:** In this phase the competent authorities have to evaluate the application for development consent, taking into account the EIS as well as the outcome of public commentary.

4.3.2 The SEA Directive

The SEA Directive lays down the procedure for undertaking an environmental assessment of plans and programmes. It takes place much earlier in the decision-making process than EIA and allows for the identification and possible prevention of adverse environmental impacts throughout the formal decision-making process and unlike the EIA aims to also consider alternative options to the suggested one.

According to Article 1 of the SEA Directive, its objective is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment by requiring to assess the environmental consequences of certain plans and programmes being likely to have significant effects on the environment. They are to be assessed:

- during the decision-making process,
- before the plans or programmes are adopted,
- with the aim of improving the plan from a sustainable development point of view.

There are four fundamental goals of the SEA. First, the SEA should inform decision-makers in a timely manner. The SEA should also allow for the integrated consideration of all relevant issues in decision-making and improve the quality of decisions. Finally, the SEA process should make the overall development processes easier and more sustainable. Member States were to implement the 2001 Directive by July 2004, with exemption of those plans and programmes for which the first formal preparatory act began prior this date and will be adopted before July 2006.

The stages of an SEA are an integral part of the planning process. Therefore, it is advisable to align the various steps of the SEA process with the given planning processes. The main procedural requirements of an SEA are as follows:

- **Screening:** Since the Directive does not give a one-stop definition of plans and programmes, the given country first has to determine the types of plans and programmes that will be subjected to SEAs. Though a list of plans and programmes is explicitly named in Article 3(2) of the Directive also other plans and programmes may be subjected to SEA. Whether an SEA has to be carried out then can either be determined on a case-by-case basis or with help of the criteria provided in Article 3(5) and Annex II of the Directive. This is the so-called screening. Note that plans and programmes as addressed by the Directive do not necessarily have to be called “plan” or “programme.”
- **Scoping:** Where it has been established that an SEA is required, either as a result of mandatory SEA requirements or following screening, the contents of the Environmental Report need to be scoped. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that the relevant environmental issues are identified so that they can be addressed appropriately in the Environmental Report. This includes the identification of the physical / regional limits, the impacts to be addressed and the alternative actions that need to be assessed.
- **Environmental Report:** The Environmental Report is at the heart of the SEA process. It sets out the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objective and the geographical scope of the plan or programme are identified, described, and evaluated. It includes the following:
 - (a) an **outline of the contents**, main objective of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans or programmes;
 - (b) the relevant aspects of the **current state of the environment** and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;
 - (c) the **environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected**;
 - (d) any **existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme** including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;
 - (e) the **environmental protection objectives**, established at an international, Community or Member State level that are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;
 - (f) all **likely significant effects**, including secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects, on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and interrelationships, if any, between the above factors;
 - (g) the **measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment** of implementing the plan or programme;
 - (h) an **outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with**, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken, including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;
 - (i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning **monitoring**;
 - (j) a non-technical **summary**.¹⁵
- **Consultations:** As the Directive aims for a high level of transparency, it prescribes consultation with relevant authorities (including other States if transboundary issues arise)¹⁶ and the public. This includes the right to be informed about the plan and programme, the right to comment and the right to be informed about the adoption of the plan and the extent to which their comments have been considered (see also Directive for providing for public participation in respect of EIA below).

¹⁵ SEA Directive, Annex 1.

¹⁶ If party to the ESPOO Convention its provisions should be considered.

- **Decision-making:** The decision on adopting the plan or programme needs to take into account the opinions expressed in consultations.
- **Information on the Decision:** A final SEA statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan, has to be made public for the relevant authorities (including other States if transboundary issues arise) and the public.
- **Monitoring:** The Directive requires monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans in order to identify, at an early stage, unforeseen adverse effects.

4.4 Directive for providing for public participation in respect of EIA [2003/35/EC]

This Directive is part of implementing the Aarhus Convention, in particular the second pillar on public participation in decision-making. It applies to certain plans and programmes as well as situations addressed by the EIA and IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) Directives. It amends both Directives in that it provides detailed prescriptions on how to consult the public. Though the Directive does not apply for public consultation under the SEA Directive it nevertheless provides useful guidance that may be taken into account also for the SEA Directive. Member States had 2 years for its implementation, until 25 June 2005.



5 Current situation with respect to Policy Sector

The following gives an overview on the current situation in the ENP partner countries with respect to the horizontal sector. Due to data availability, most weight will be placed on the situation with regard to the EIA and SEA Directives.

5.1 Access to Information and Reporting

Most Eastern ENP partner countries have ratified the Aarhus Convention but lack of resources at regional and local levels make it hard to follow the Convention's requirements. In this context, many partner countries have taken steps to enhance **public access to environmental information** and to promote participation in decision-making on environmental matters.¹⁷

5.2 Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

5.2.1 Mediterranean ENP Partner countries

Environmental Issues with Regard to EIA and SEA

METAP, the Mediterranean Environment Protection Technical Assistance Program, founded in 1990, was designed to identify environmental development projects in the region likely to be funded by the World Bank or other financial or political institutions. Its focus has been on enhancing environmental impact evaluations through reinforcing institutional and technical capabilities. In this context, impact assessments were introduced in this region partially in order to attract investors in sustainable development.

Some Southern Mediterranean neighbouring countries have well established EIA systems, though EIA quality and quantity varies from country to country. Other countries lack EIA laws. Since the SEA is a relatively new assessment tool, most countries in this region have no formal provisions in their environmental framework. Some countries are currently developing SEA procedures and/or frameworks.

5.2.2 Eastern ENP Partner countries

Environmental Issues with Regard to EIA and SEA

The situation with respect to EIAs and SEAs in the Eastern Neighbours and Russia is dominated by issues related to the former assessment system of SER (State of Environment Review) and OVOS (Assessment of Environmental Impacts) that was created under the Soviet Union. SER¹⁸ is a procedure following along the lines of the EU EIA procedure, though it differs in a number of issues.¹⁹ A major difference is that the

¹⁷ Commission of the European Communities: Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the: Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy. Sectoral Progress Report {COM(2006) 726 final}. SEC(2006) 1512/2 (http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/sec06_1512-2_en.pdf).

¹⁸ In the SER/OVOS process, an expert committee reviews and/or appraises projects or plans. The OVOS, which is prepared by the developer, is submitted to this committee and describes the environmental effects of a proposal. The project is either approved or denied.

¹⁹ These differences were highlighted and discussed in detail in: Klees R and Capcelea, A (2002). Environmental Impact Assessment Systems in Europe and Central Asia Countries. The World Bank: Washington, D.C.

screening provision of the SER principally applies to all proposed developments, regardless of their size or expected impact (e.g. virtually all land-use and sector plans, federal and regional programs and policies); thus, screening does not occur in the true sense. Scoping is also not formally required in many countries.²⁰ Another difference is that the SER/OVOS process is dominated by the government in reviewing and decision-making. Furthermore, this process does not have transparency and public participation provisions of the kind required in the EU. Reforms started in the late 1980's in EA practice aimed at bridging the gap between SER's and EIA's by enhancing public participation and placing a greater focus on science through mandatory environmental appraisals.

After the breakdown of the Soviet Union, both procedures were continued to a greater or lesser extent.

In addition to these factors, the following issues affect application of the existing environmental assessment provisions:

- An advanced **legal framework** exists but it lacks specific guidelines on implementation;
- **Screening** guidelines are very broad, causing a substantial burden for competent authorities or project developers;
- **Public consultation** often is limited.

The system of environmental review of projects in Russia underwent major reform in 2007.

²⁰ Scoping, however, does occur internally, that is the impacts to be studied are decided internally by the developer (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova).

6 Conclusions for ENP and Russia

Box 6: EU funding for ENP

From the beginning of the new Financial Framework 2007-2013, the EU is providing financial support for the ENP through a dedicated **European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)**. It targets various areas of co-operation including sustainable development and the environment, supporting jointly agreed reform priorities in the ENP Action Plans. The ENPI will target sustainable development and convergence with EU policies and legislation, and bring a radical improvement in capacity to support cross-border cooperation along the EU's external borders – thus giving substance to the aim of avoiding the creation of new dividing lines and promoting harmonious territorial development across the EU external border. The ENPI replaces MEDA (for the Southern Mediterranean neighbours) and TACIS (for the Eastern neighbours and the Russian Federation).

Guided by the agreed priorities in the ENP Action Plans, the ENPI provides for assistance under national, regional, cross-border and interregional programmes. There are also a certain number of thematic programmes with global scope from which the ENPI countries can benefit. This includes a thematic programme for environment and sustainable management of natural resources including energy.

The ENPI budget is fixed at around € 12 billion for the period 2007–2013. In real terms it means an increase of 32% as compared with the previous financial framework.

As a means of delivering technical assistance under the ENP, the **Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument** and long-term **twinning** arrangements have been made available to the ENP partner countries:

- **TAIEX** provides technical support and training in areas related to the implementation of the ENP Action Plans, including with regard to the convergence, application and enforcement of legislation. It is largely demand driven and channels requests for assistance and contributes to the delivery of appropriate tailor-made expertise to address problems at short notice²¹.
- **Twining** aims to help beneficiary countries in the development of modern and efficient administrations. It can also facilitate gradual convergence to EU legislation where relevant and appropriate.

²¹ <http://taix.ec.europa.eu/>

The following paragraphs suggest potential steps toward convergence on the environmental horizontal legislation and issues for consideration during the process. Apart from the participation requirements as established by the Directives, **stakeholder involvement** should be ensured in all stages of implementation. It is recommended to involve all actors and stakeholders contributing to policy development, as well as those affected by the changes. Consultation processes should involve other central government ministries, regional and local government, NGOs and the general public.

1. Create the necessary conditions for strategic planning

- Though the horizontal EU Directives require virtually no capital investment, comprehensive **administrative and institutional reform and capacity building** will be necessary in many ENP partner countries in order to develop human resources and make sufficient financial resources available for re-organisation and training, both at the central and lower administrative levels. Many ENP Eastern partner countries are facing inadequate management capacities and local financial resources. Therefore, it is important to ensure adequate staffing. Furthermore, it is vital to set up a clear division with respect to which level of government is responsible in order to avoid double work and unnecessary use of funds. In this respect, smooth information sharing routines between ministries and different levels of government is an asset. Databases often differ between different agencies and ministries in many Eastern partner countries, hindering information sharing.
- Since for the horizontal Directives co-ordination – horizontally as well as vertically – and information exchange play a vital role, institutional reforms should aim to achieve **better co-ordination between different authorities**. Many ENP partner countries, however, are characterised by compartmentalised administrative structures, a main concern of aligning national with the EU provisions will be to improve co-operation within the administration. To this end, it will be necessary to clarify the role in the assessment process that should be given to different levels of government (national, regional and local) but also to different departments (such as agriculture, industry, etc.).
- **Public participation** is a key requirement of the horizontal Directives. Therefore, the preconditions for public participation may need to be created or further developed by improving environmental awareness and information, as well as establishing public information and consultation processes. Since many of the ENP Eastern partner countries are facing a traditional lack of public participation, there could be potential clashes with Aarhus Convention principles and the basic principles in the EIA and SEA Directives, all of which require public participation.

2. Develop a strategy for convergence

Strategic planning is necessary to define the aims of convergence and identify priorities and barriers and select options. Action taken should include the following steps:

Set convergence priorities and targets. It should be realistically assessed to what extent the ENP partner country can align with the EU Directives and in what areas convergence can bring the greatest benefits. This should lead to a prioritisation of tasks that may be based on the following criteria:

- **Urgency of issues:** For instance, the EIA and SEA Directives should be implemented early in the implementation plan, as it is of great importance for preventing negative environmental effects in the context of economic restructuring and development.
- **Legislative considerations:** Procedural legislation with implications for the implementation of other Directives, such as the Reporting Directive and the Directive for providing for public participation in EIA may be adopted at an early stage. Usually, the establishment of the respective structures will help to implement the reporting and public participation requirements of other legislation.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Legislation that gives the greatest benefit relative to the cost of implementation may be given higher priority than legislation with lower cost/benefit ratios. Since the horizontal Directives do not require big infrastructure investments implementation is not very costly compared to waste or water legislation.

- **Economic considerations:** The relevance of legislation for the (national) economy should be taken into account. Legislation affecting industrial or commercial sectors that make significant contributions to the economy should be addressed before those that relate to small or insignificant industries. Since the horizontal Directives do not distinguish between different sectors, they all may be applied at an early stage.

Legal gap analysis. The legal form of convergence that best fits with the existing legal framework needs to be identified – for instance, whether new assessment procedures need to be developed, or whether it is sufficient to amend the existing ones and how this is legally done best.

Institutional gap analysis and implementation gap analysis. In addition to the legal gap analysis, it may be helpful to compare the existing institutional structure and implementation of existing legislation to those required under convergence to identify necessary changes and improvements.

Linking processes and creating synergies. If convergence with different EU Directives is envisaged, it may be useful to link the different processes, since institutional and administrative requirements may be similar for different Directives. For the horizontal legislation, this is of special relevance since the Reporting Directive and the Directive for providing for public participation in EIA for instance concern a number of environmental Directives. It may also prove beneficial to combine implementation of the EIA and SEA Directives since they are similar in many respects.

3. Develop a financing strategy

The costs of implementing convergence should be estimated at an early stage and a financing strategy should be prepared. A benefit of the horizontal Directives is that they are administrative in nature and require virtually no capital investment. However, costs for implementing and complying with the provisions should not be underestimated, because institutional capacity building including additional personnel and training costs in addition to electronic data storage systems will be fundamental to implementation. The following gives a short impression of the major types of costs related to the horizontal Directives:

- The costs of implementing the **Reporting Directive** are considered to be relatively low, since the main costs for reporting will be covered by implementing the Directives covered by the Reporting Directive.
- The **Access to Information Directive** explicitly allows authorities to charge information services at a reasonable amount. However, it is quite likely, that these will not cover all costs involved in obtaining the information. A list of the types of costs usually incurring to implement the Directive is given below:

Box 7: Types of Cost Incurred with Implementation of the Access to Information Directive

Initial set-up costs:

- improvements to procedures for data collection, storage and retrieval;
- provision of, or improvements to databases, including computer systems and PCs;
- improvements to, or new, office facilities;
- training of information officers in communications and information dissemination methods;
- information technology for running relevant databases, information networks and web-sites.

On-going costs:

- provision of the information service (staffing, consumables, etc);
- reporting to the public and the Commission;
- information technology maintenance and up dating, as necessary.

Source: Handbook on the Implementation of EC Environmental Legislation.

- In case of the **EIA and SEA Directives**, costs are expected to be significant in particular in countries currently reorganising their administrative structures from a centralised to a decentralised system. In those countries, staff recruitment and staff training are expected to be costly, in addition to those costs arising from advising developers of the new procedures and for the actual evaluation of the information provided by the developers as in countries where environmental administration is already firmly established.

Apart of costs to arise from institutional capacity building, the development of **information technology** for purposes such as to support access to environmental information, project progress tracking databases, improving communications and the handling of information, handling applications and improving communications is expected to be costly.

The following costs are expected to occur for setting up an environmental impact assessment system or an SEA procedure:

Box 8: Types of Cost Incurred with Implementation

- staff and training (initially and permanently)
- administrative costs (initially and permanently),
- communications, computer systems and PCs,
- web site and related electronic database development (ongoing: training for and operation of both),
- preparation and publishing of guidance,
- advice from independent experts,
- set up costs for an EIA authority.

Source: Handbook on the Implementation of EC Environmental Legislation.4.

4. Develop an implementation plan

On the basis of the strategic and financial planning, an implementation plan should be developed detailing the steps necessary to implement convergence according to the priorities and objectives identified in the earlier planning phases. Implementation plans should allow sufficient time to give all actors and stakeholders affected time to adjust to the changes and make the necessary investments.

In terms of time needed for implementation, a look at the Member States may serve as indication. However, the situation in the ENP partner countries is quite different to that in the Member States and the usefulness of reference to Member States therefore limited. A look at the new Member States may be more helpful. The Accession Treaty with the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia²² contains the Directives for which transition periods were agreed and none of the Directives being part of the horizontal legislation was contained therein. It may be concluded that the time given to the new Member States for implementation can serve as guidance.

The most important elements of implementation plans are:

- **Development or adjustment of regulation:** Currently, conflicts between different national laws in the Eastern ENP partner countries can be observed in a number of cases, as the law making process over the past 10 years has introduced a lot of new legislation but not necessarily clear and concise frameworks. Similarly, in the Mediterranean ENP partner countries, different national laws are sometimes in conflict with one another, which could make convergence rather difficult. Furthermore, the gap between legal requirements on paper and actual implementation is considerable. Unclear existing legislative frameworks may hamper changing and updating legislation.
- Adjustment and strengthening of **administrative structures** (see point 1).
- Provisions for **training and additional staff** (see point 1).
- Setting up the necessary **technical systems**, such as databases for information storage and exchange.

²² http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/archives/enlargement_process/future_prospects/negotiations/eu10_bulgaria_romania/treaty_2003/content/index_en.htm.



7 Further Information

1. Websites

UN. "Environmental Impact Assessment: Course Module" http://eia.unu.edu/course/?page_id=93
European Commission. "Environmental Assessment" <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/home.htm>

2. Further guidance on convergence and implementation of EU (horizontal) environmental policy:

Convergence with EU environmental legislation in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia: a Guide
Schmidt, Michael; Joao, Elsa; Albrecht, Eike (Eds.). 2005. Implementing Strategic Environmental

Assessments. Series: Environmental Protection in the European Union, Vol. 2. Singer-Verlag: Berlin.

Guide to the Approximation of European Union Environmental Legislation.

Sabine Hoefnagel. "Applicability of Convergence Road-Map for the NIS for the Mediterranean region"

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/enlarg/pdf/031222_finalreport.pdf

Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes
on the Environment. DG Environment.

Handbook on the Implementation of EC Environmental Legislation.



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