



EUROPEAN

Home About us

Policies ▾ Funding ▾

Legal compliance ▾

News & outreach ▾

Environmental Assessment

What's new ?

- **NEW** [Interpretation of definitions of project categories of annex I and II of the EIA Directive \(pdf ~641K\) \(05/2015\)](#)
- 15/05/2014: The revision of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive enters into force. [Read more...](#)
- 24/07/2013: Streamlining environmental assessment procedures for energy infrastructure Projects of Common Interest (PCIs). [Read more...](#)
- 16/05/2013: Guidance on the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large-scale Transboundary Projects. [Read more...](#)
- 04/04/2013: Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Environmental Impact Assessment. [Read more...](#)
- 04/04/2013: Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment. [Read more...](#)
- 14/03/2013: Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Rulings of the Court of Justice. [Read more...](#)

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before the decisions are made. Environmental assessment can be undertaken for individual projects, such as a dam, motorway, airport or factory, on the basis of Directive 2011/92/EU (known as 'Environmental Impact Assessment' - EIA Directive) or for public plans or programmes on the basis of Directive 2001/42/EC (known as 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' - SEA Directive). The common principle of both Directives is to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation. Consultation with the public is a key feature of environmental assessment procedures.

The Directives on Environmental Assessment aim to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation of projects, plans and programmes with a view to reduce their environmental impact. They ensure public participation in decision-making and thereby strengthen the quality of decisions. The projects and programmes co-financed by the EU (Cohesion, Agricultural and Fisheries Policies) have to comply with the EIA and SEA Directives to receive approval for financial assistance. Hence the Directives on Environmental Assessment are crucial tools for sustainable development.

This website provides information on the European Union's laws on Environmental Impact Assessment of public and private projects (including its [review](#)) and the Environmental Assessment of public plans and programmes together with other related information.

Group of EIA/SEA National Experts

The Group of EIA/SEA National Experts brings together environmental experts from national administrations and meets twice per year. The role of the Group is to provide advice and expertise to the European Commission in relation to the coordination and cooperation with Member States, the implementation of the EIA/SEA Directives and the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives.

The members of the Group were nominated by the relevant Member States. The list of those members is available [here](#).

More information on the meetings of the Commission Group of EIA/SEA National Experts can be found [here](#).