Basic information

2008/0052(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Environmental impact in a transboundary context: approval of the protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the UN/ECE Espoo Convention **Subject** 3.70.09 Transfrontier pollution	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	SONIK Bogusław (PPE-DE)	14/04/2008
Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	Environment	2898	2008-10-20
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Environment	DIMAS Stavros	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/03/2008	Legislative proposal published	COM(2008)0132	Summary
10/04/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/06/2008	Vote in committee		Summary
04/06/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0221/2008	
08/07/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0320/2008	Summary
08/07/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
20/10/2008	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
20/10/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/11/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/0052(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2/3-a1 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/6/60661

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE406.022	08/05/2008	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0221/2008	04/06/2008	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0320/2008	08/07/2008	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2008)0132	11/03/2008	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2008/0871
OJ L 308 19.11.2008, p. 0033 Summary

Environmental impact in a transboundary context: approval of the protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the UN/ECE Espoo Convention

2008/0052(CNS) - 08/07/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted, by 656 votes to 12 with 11 abstentions, under the consultation procedure, a legislative resolution approving the proposal for a Council decision on the approval on behalf of the European Community of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. The report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Bogusław **SONIK** (EPP-ED, PL), on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

Environmental impact in a transboundary context: approval of the protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the UN/ECE Espoo Convention

2008/0052(CNS) - 20/10/2008 - Final act

PURPOSE: to approve, on behalf of the European Community, the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2008/871/EC on the approval, on behalf of the European Community, of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

CONTENT: on 21 May 2003, on the occasion of the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" held in Kiev, Ukraine, 2123 May 2003, the Commission, on behalf of the Community, signed the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

This Protocol helps to protect the environment by providing for the assessment of the likely significant environmental, including health, effects of plans and programmes and, where appropriate, policies and texts by integrating environmental, including health, concerns into measures and instruments designed to further sustainable development.

The Protocol’s substantive obligations fall into three groups:

1. general provisions on **assistance and guidance to the public**, recognition of and support to relevant associations, promotion of the Protocol’s objectives internationally, and the **rights of persons exercising their rights** under the Protocol not to be penalised or discriminated against on grounds of citizenship, etc.;
2. provisions dealing with the **environmental assessment** of certain plans and programmes. These are divided into two groups; one for which assessment is mandatory except in certain limited cases, and one which requires assessment when Parties consider they are likely to have significant effects;
3. requirements on policies and legislation: Parties are to endeavour to ensure that environmental, including health, concerns are considered and integrated to the extent appropriate, **in preparing policies and legislation** that are likely to have significant effects on the environment, including health.

The aim of this Decision is to approve, on behalf of the Community, the abovementioned Protocol. The Decision also provides that the European Community and the Member States should take the necessary steps to allow the deposit, as far as possible simultaneously, of the instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Protocol shall enter into force when the ratification, approval or acceptance procedures have been carried out.

Environmental impact in a transboundary context: approval of the protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the UN/ECE Espoo Convention

2008/0052(CNS) - 11/03/2008 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: the approval on behalf of the European Community of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

CONTENT: on 21 May 2003, at the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” held in Kiev, Ukraine, 21-23 May 2003, the Commission, on behalf of the European Community, signed the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

The Protocol helps to protect the environment by providing for the assessment of the likely significant environmental, including health, effects of plans and programmes and, where appropriate, policies and legislation, thereby integrating environmental, including health, concerns into measures and instruments designed to promote sustainable development.

The Protocol’s substantive obligations fall into three groups:

- there are general provisions on assistance and guidance to the public, recognition of and support to relevant associations, promotion of the Protocol’s objectives internationally, and the rights of persons exercising their rights under the Protocol not to be penalised or discriminated against on grounds of citizenship, etc;

- there are provisions dealing with the environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes. These are divided into two groups: one for which assessment is mandatory except in certain limited cases, and one which requires assessment when Parties consider they are likely to have significant environmental effects. There are detailed provisions on the different stages of the environmental assessment;
- the Protocol builds on the provision referring to policies in the Espoo Convention by establishing requirements on policies and legislation. Parties are to 'endeavour to ensure that environmental, including health, concerns are considered and integrated to the extent appropriate', in preparing policies and legislation that are likely to have significant effects on the environment, including health.

The Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the 1991 UN/ECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context should therefore be approved by the European Community.