



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Ocean Governance, Law of the Sea, Arctic Policy

INVITATION TO THE EU WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

The European Commission would like to invite you to its workshop on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), which will take place on 28-29 January 2020 in Brussels.

The aim of this workshop is to support the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations, in the context of the Intergovernmental Conference, to elaborate the text of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). This workshop will bring together relevant players and stakeholders to discuss particular issues relating to the EIA part of the negotiations, including through various panel sessions that intend to cover:

- The relationship of the new instrument with existing EIA instruments;
- Existing EIA experiences and lessons learned;
- The possible internationalisation of EIA procedures under the new instrument;
- Cumulative impacts and the role of science in the EIA part;
- The inclusion of SEAs;
- Delegations' positions and views.

The workshop will provide an informal setting (Chatham House Rule) to explore and develop possible pragmatic options in relation to the above as well as other EIA-related issues that may be raised. Your participation would be highly appreciated.

Please note that registration is mandatory and that the maximum number of participants is limited. We therefore kindly ask you to confirm your presence by registering via the link on page 2 as soon as possible and in any case **before 15 January 2020**. You will receive an acknowledgment message once you have registered. A confirmation letter will be sent to you later and after your registration has been reviewed by the organisers. Please note that the European Commission will not cover expenses.

We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels.

Yours sincerely,

The EU EIA/SEA Workshop team

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Date

28-29 January 2020.

Location

Hotel NH Brussels EU Berlaymont, Boulevard Charlemagne 11-19, 1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Tel.: +32 2 231 09 09 | Email: nhbrusselseuberlaymont@nh-hotels.com

Registration

Please confirm your presence by registering via the following link **before 15 January 2020**: https://scic.ec.europa.eu/ew/register/dgscic/EIA_SEA_Workshop_28_29_January_2020_Brussels/e/lk/g/11860/k/

Programme

The draft programme is available on the following website and will be regularly updated: https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/press/workshop-environmental-impact-assessments-and-strategic-environmental-assessments-0_en

Accommodation

Please note that a limited number of rooms in the Hotel NH Brussels EU Berlaymont are available for participants of the workshop **at their own expense**.

In case you would like to book one of these rooms, please note that the cut-off date for reservations is **27 December 2019** and that you will need to indicate on the reservation form that you are participating in the EU workshop.

Visas

Participants from non-EU countries that are not in the possession of a diplomatic passport or laissez-passer, must possess an appropriate valid Schengen Visa prior to arriving in Belgium. It is this person's responsibility to access the visa website in order to obtain the necessary application. This would need to be filed at the diplomatic mission of the main destination or country of first entry into the Schengen area, or its representation. Participants must ensure that the application is lodged as soon as possible in order to ensure timely review.

More information:

https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/travel_to_belgium/visa_for_belgium

Contact

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr Roderick HARTE at roderick.harte@ec.europa.eu (programme) or the EU EIA/SEA Workshop team at EU-EIA-WORKSHOP@ec.europa.eu (practical matters).

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