

The format for notification of an affected Party of a proposed plan or programme under article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment was adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment by the [Decision II/7](#) at its sixth session held in Geneva from 2 to 5 June 2014.

This document contains excerpt from the Decision II/7 and can only be used in conjunction with the full text of Decision II/7 and not as a stand-alone document.

**Notification of an affected Party of a proposed plan or programme under article 10 of
the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment for the
INTEGRATED PLAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE
THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, updated 2024**

<i>Description of information to be included</i>	<i>Information</i>
General information on the plan or programme	
Name of the plan or programme	Integrated Plan Energy and Climate of Republic of Bulgaria 2021 – 2030, updated 2024.
Type and sector of plan or programme (e.g., local land-use plan, national energy strategy)	National level energy climate plan.
Territorial coverage (e.g., regional, national)	National territory
Main content and purpose of the plan or programme (e.g., framework setting for projects, determination of use of land) and its links with other plans or programmes	As a Member State of the European Union, Bulgaria shares the common value of developing a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050. In accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, the Republic of Bulgaria undertakes to submit to the European Commission (EC) a draft updated Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (IECP). The updated IECP defines ambitious objectives and measures related to: • The transformation process of the national energy mix; • Decarbonisation with sustainable and sufficient emission reductions in the energy sector thanks to new low-carbon technologies and a smooth transition to low-carbon sources; • Adoption of a national climate neutrality target by 2050. The main objectives set out in the IECPs are: • Stimulating low carbon development of the economy; • Developing competitive and secure energy; • Increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions, including by exploiting the full potential of natural gas as an energy source and transitional fuel;

	• Reducing dependence on imported fuels and energy; • Ensuring affordable energy for all consumers. National energy and climate priorities can be summarised as follows: Energy: • Increasing energy security and diversifying the supply of energy resources; • Developing an integrated and competitive energy market; • Exploiting the potential for fuel switching from solid fuels to other environmental sources to reduce carbon emissions and increase energy efficiency; • Speeding up the process of introducing renewable energy production and consumption; • Promoting self-consumption of renewable energy, the development of renewable energy communities and related energy infrastructure for the transmission, distribution and storage of renewable energy; • Network development; • Increasing energy efficiency by developing and applying new technologies to achieve modern and sustainable energy; • Protecting consumers by ensuring fair, transparent and non-discriminatory conditions for the use of energy services. Climate: • Achieving climate neutrality by 2050; • Under Regulation (EU) 2023/857 (the Effort Sharing Regulation), the Republic of Bulgaria must limit its greenhouse gas emissions for non-emissions trading sectors by 10 % compared to its 2005 emissions; • Bulgaria must ensure that the sum of greenhouse gas emissions and removals in the LULUCF sector achieved in 2030 does not exceed removals, after applying the flexibility provided for in the Regulation, the target is of – 9 718 kton CO₂ eq. Detail information is attached. https://commission.europa.eu/publications/bulgaria-final-updated-necp-2021-2030-submitted-2025_en https://www.moew.government.bg/bg/aktualiziran-integriran-nacionalen-plan-energetika-i-klimat-inpek/
Whether the plan or programme is binding	Binding ☒ Not binding ☐
Submitted documents	
Draft of the IECP, updated 2024	Enclosed ☒

	Not enclosed ☐
Environmental Report	Enclosed ☐ <u>Not enclosed</u> ☒ The SEA Report will be transmitted in case of expressed will by a notified party to participate in the national SEA procedure.
Other documents (with description)	The Appropriate Assessment Report (AAR) will be presented together with the SEA Report.
Languages into which documents are or will be translated	The documents will be translated in English language.
Description of the decision-making procedure and of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure in the Party of origin	
Description of the phases of the planning procedure	The draft of the updated IECP in Bulgaria is currently under the strategic environmental procedure (SEA) developed by the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW). The title holder of this plan is the MOEW and the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Bulgarian MOEW is in charge with the SEA procedure at national level and with the transboundary SEA procedure, as well. By the present Notification, Bulgaria is applying the transboundary SEA procedure with the countries that are likely to be affected by the Plan. If the notified countries respond that they participate in this procedure, Bulgaria expects comments and points of views from the affected public and from the authorities of the affected Parties. A public hearing will be organized at the request of the affected parties. After the SEA procedure is closed, the Bulgarian State Authorities will adopt the Plan by Governmental Decision. The planning procedure consists in the following stages: - Elaboration of IECP, updated 2024. - Conducting the SEA procedure at national level and in a transboundary context – in case of necessity. - Taking into consideration the results of the national and transboundary consultations (in case of necessity). - Completion of the SEA procedure and issuance of Statement on Ecological Assessment by the Minister of Environment and Waters. - Adoption of the draft of IECP in Bulgaria by the Bulgarian Government Decision.
Legal basis for the planning procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)	In accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, the Republic of Bulgaria undertakes to submit to the EC a draft updated INECP.
Description of the phases of the SEA procedure, including participation of	The SEA procedure will continue with development and consultations on a Scoping report for the SEA.

the affected Party	According to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA, transposing the Directive 2001/42/CE) the SEA procedure incorporates the procedure for Appropriate Assessment and in the concrete case the AAR for the Plan will be the first document subject of submission under the SEA procedure. Once the MOEW gives a positive assessment of the quality of the AAR than the consultations on the SEA Report can start. In case of a transboundary procedure the both reports will be sent to the affected parties for consultations as well. All comments and opinions will be sent to the Bulgarian MOEW to be taken into account in the SEA procedure. The final SEA decision – Statement on Ecological Assessment regarding the draft of IECP will be made available to the countries that are likely to be affected by the plan.
Legal basis for the SEA procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)	EPA transposing the Directive 2001/42/CE and the Ordinance on the Conditions and Procedure for Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes for setting up the environmental assessment procedure of certain plans and programmes.
Present phase of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure	Announcement stage.
Time schedule of the foreseen continuation of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure	Planned date for finalizing the SEA Procedure: before the date for the adoption of the Plan but not later than 03.06.2026.
Process and timing of the possible adoption of the plan or programme	Planned date for adoption of the Plan from the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria: June 2026.
Information on the public participation process in the Party of origin	
Opportunities for the public to participate:	The public can provide comments on the SEA Report and AAR according with the legal basis for the SEA procedure. The public can also provide comments during the public hearing if such is required.
Start and end dates for the public to provide comments on the environmental report and draft plan or programme	The start is after a positive assessment of AAR and the end is at least for 30 days.
How the public is informed of the public participation process	The public will be informed by the relevant web-page of the MOEW.
Whether a public hearing is organized and, if so, when	Yes ☐ (in which case, the date of the hearing) <u>No</u> ☒ In case of necessity, a public hearing will be organized and announced, in due time according to the legal basis of the SEA procedure.

How the public is informed of the adoption of the plan or programme and how the information specified in article 11, paragraph 2, is made available	At the adoption of the plan, the Bulgarian public and authorities will be informed on the web site of the MOEW and of the Council of Ministers. The IECF in Bulgaria will be made available together with a statement summarizing how the environmental, including health, considerations have been integrated into it, how the comments received have been taken into account and the reasons for adopting it in the light of the reasonable alternatives considered.
Expected time schedule for transmittal of comments and questions by the public of the affected Party on the draft plan or programme and on the full environmental report	Bulgaria expects comments and questions from the public and the authorities of the affected Party on the draft of updated IECF and the SEA report for a period not longer than 30 days after submission of the SEA Report for expressing an opinion.
Involved authorities in the Party of origin	
Authority responsible for the planning procedure	MOEW, Directorate General for Climate Change Policy, Ministry of Energy.
Authority/institution responsible for the adoption of the plan or programme	The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria.
Authority responsible for the SEA procedure	MOEW, Directorate "Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and Pollution Prevention";
Authority/institution responsible for the SEA decision (if applicable)	MOEW
Affected Parties	
List of Parties to which notification has been sent	Romania; Republic of Serbia; Republic of North Macedonia; Republic of Greece; Republic of Turkey; Republic of Austria.
Point of contact for the transboundary procedure	
Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the transboundary SEA procedure: name, address, email, telephone and fax numbers	Administrative services Ministry of Environment and Water 22 Maria-Luisa Blvd. 1000 SOFIA Telephone: +359 2 940 6662 Fax: +359 2 980 3548 E-mail:edno_gishe@moew.government.bg mgandzhova@moew.government.bg
Deadlines for response to the notification	
Deadline for responding to indicate whether the affected Party wishes to participate	Within 15 days after receiving the Notification but not later.
Deadline for transmission of comments on the draft plan or programme and the full	Bulgaria expects comments from the possibly affected Parties on the draft of updated IECF. until November, 2025.

environmental report by authorities of the affected Party (if different from above)	The comments have to be transmitted in English and if possible in editable format.
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Means of communication	
Means by which letters from the Party of origin are sent (e.g., e-mail, fax, post, via embassy)	By e-mail to the following focal points for SEA Protocol. On the countries that are likely to be affected by the plan.
Means by which affected Parties are asked to send their letters	Administrative services Ministry of Environment and Water 22 Maria-Luisa Blvd. 1000 SOFIA Telephone: +359 2 940 6662 Fax: +359 2 980 3548 E-mail:edno_gishe@moew.government.bg mgandzhova@moew.government.bg