

FOREWORD TO THE GUIDANCE ON SCOPING

This guidance document is about Scoping in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It is one of a series of three guidance documents on EIA published by the Commission. The others are concerned with [Screening in EIA](#) and [EIS Review](#).

Scoping is the process of determining the content and extent of the matters which should be covered in the environmental information to be submitted to a competent authority for projects which are subject to EIA.

A five year review of implementation of Directive 85/337/EEC undertaken for The Commission in 1997 recommended the introduction of scoping as one of the means of strengthening the role of EIA in achieving environmental protection. The five year review can be found at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/eia-studies-and-report/5years.pdf>.

Following the recommendation of the Five Year Review, scoping was introduced in Directive 97/11/EC. Scoping is not made mandatory by the 1997 directive but all Member States which do not have scoping in their EIA procedure are required to introduce, as a minimum, a voluntary scoping stage. The minimum requirement is that competent authorities must provide a Scoping Opinion if requested by a developer. The Scoping Opinion should identify the content and extent of the information to be elaborated and supplied by the developer to the competent authority.

The Directive also allows Member States to make scoping a mandatory part of their EIA procedure.

This document comprises two main parts (B and C) and refers to a number of supporting checklists and appendices.

- Part A of the guidance document describes the scoping requirements of the European Council (EC) Directives on EIA (85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC) and reviews the different ways in which these have been implemented in the Member States. It should **always** be read in conjunction with the Directive, and with national or local legislation and guidance on EIA, as detailed legal requirements vary throughout the Member States. A review of Member State requirements for scoping as they were in August 1999 can be found in a report prepared during the preparation of the guidance. This can be downloaded at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/eia-studies-and-reports/study1.htm>.
- Part B offers practical advice on scoping, including consultations during scoping, and provides some tools to help in the process.

Key terms used in the guidance are explained in the [Glossary](#).

Further copies of this guidance document can be requested from the Directorate General Environment of the European Commission (*contact* <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/eia-support.htm>).

The guidance is designed principally for use by competent authorities, developers and EIA practitioners in the European Union (EU) Member States and Accession