

FOREWORD TO THE GUIDANCE ON SCREENING

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

Screening is the process of determining whether or not EIA is required for a particular project.

A five year review of implementation of Directive 85/337/EEC, undertaken for The Commission in 1997, indicated that the application of EIA to projects of different types was very variable across the Member States. This finding was one factor influencing an amendment to the Directive introduced in Directive 97/11/EC which requires screening of projects which may be subject to EIA. The five year review can be found at <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/eia-studies-and-report/5years.pdf>.

This guidance document comprises two main parts (Parts A and B) and supporting checklists and appendices.

- Part A of the guidance document describes the screening requirements of the European Council (EC) Directives on EIA (85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC) and discusses how these have been transposed into Member State Legislation. It should **always** be read in conjunction with the Directives 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 screening as they were in August 1999 can be found in a report prepared during the preparation of this guidance. This can be downloaded at <http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia/eia-studies-and-reports/study1.htm>.
- Part B of the guidance offers practical advice on screening, describing the steps to be followed in determining whether EIA is required, and providing some tools to help in the process.

Key terms used in this guidance are defined 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 Countries. It is also hoped that it will be of interest to academics and other organisations who participate in EIA training and education and to practitioners from around the world.