

# The UNECE Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context



## *“The Espoo Convention”*

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# Espoo Convention's requirements

- sets out obligations of Parties to assess significant environmental impacts of certain activities
- requires Parties to notify and consult each other on projects under considerations that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across boundaries
- Parties of Origin have responsibilities towards Affected Parties

# Organisation

- **Convention Secretariat in Geneva**
- **Point of Contact in Party handles practical issues as notification and consultations**
- **Focal Point in Party has comprehensive role closer to political level**
- **Meeting of Parties every 3-4 year**
- **Working group (Parties, Secretariat, NGOs) meet one or two times a year in Geneva**

# Status of EIA Convention ratification

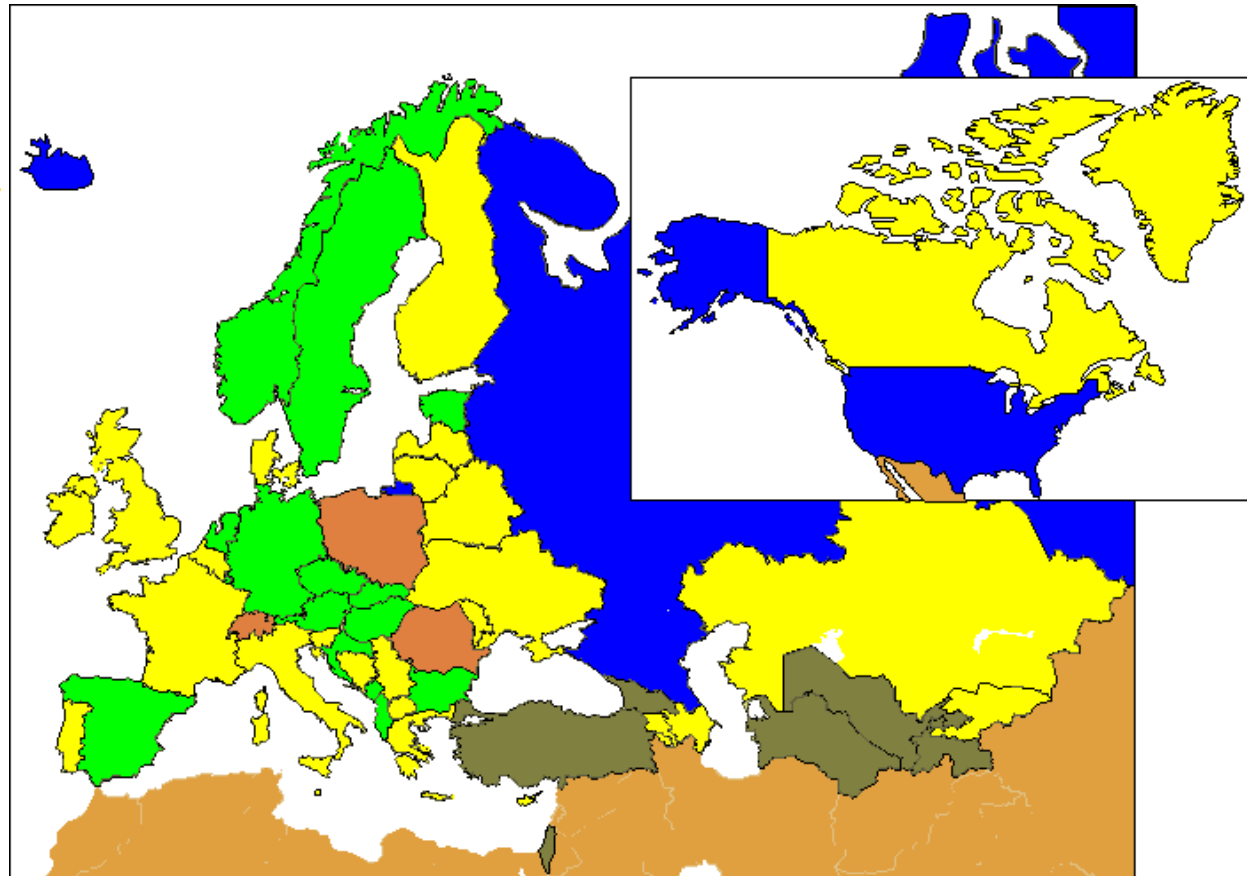


**Green, Brown Yellow**

**= Parties to the Convention**

**Blue = Not Party but signed**

**Dark = Not signed  
grey**



# Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention

- **SEA Protocol done in Kiev 2003, in force July 2010**
- **Obliges Parties to carry out an SEA for certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant environmental effects**
- **Requires Parties to have public participation in assessments and transboundary consultations when plan/programme is likely to have such transboundary effects**

# Status of Protocol ratification

## Party

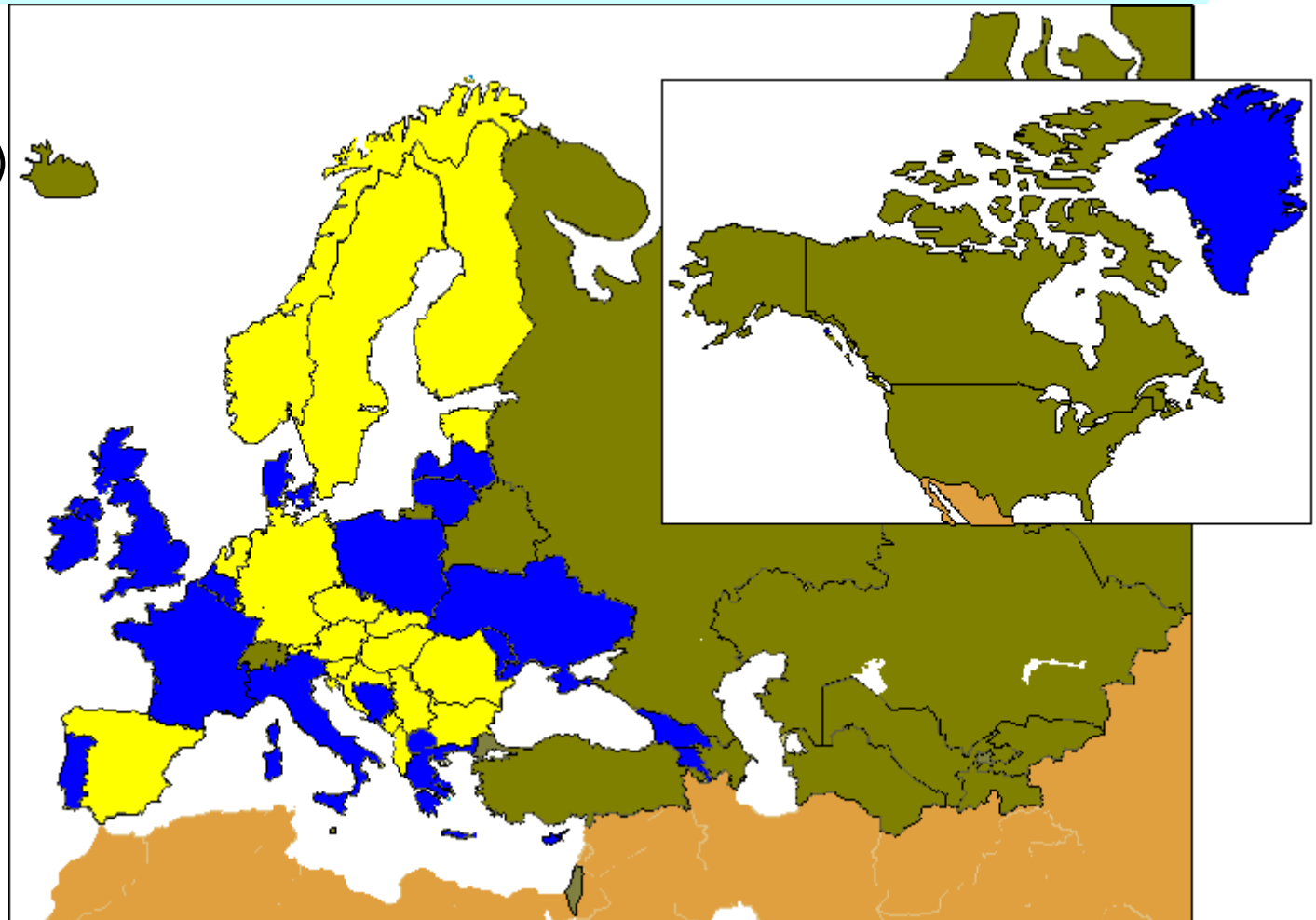
(ratified, approved)

## Signatory

(not ratified yet)

## Others

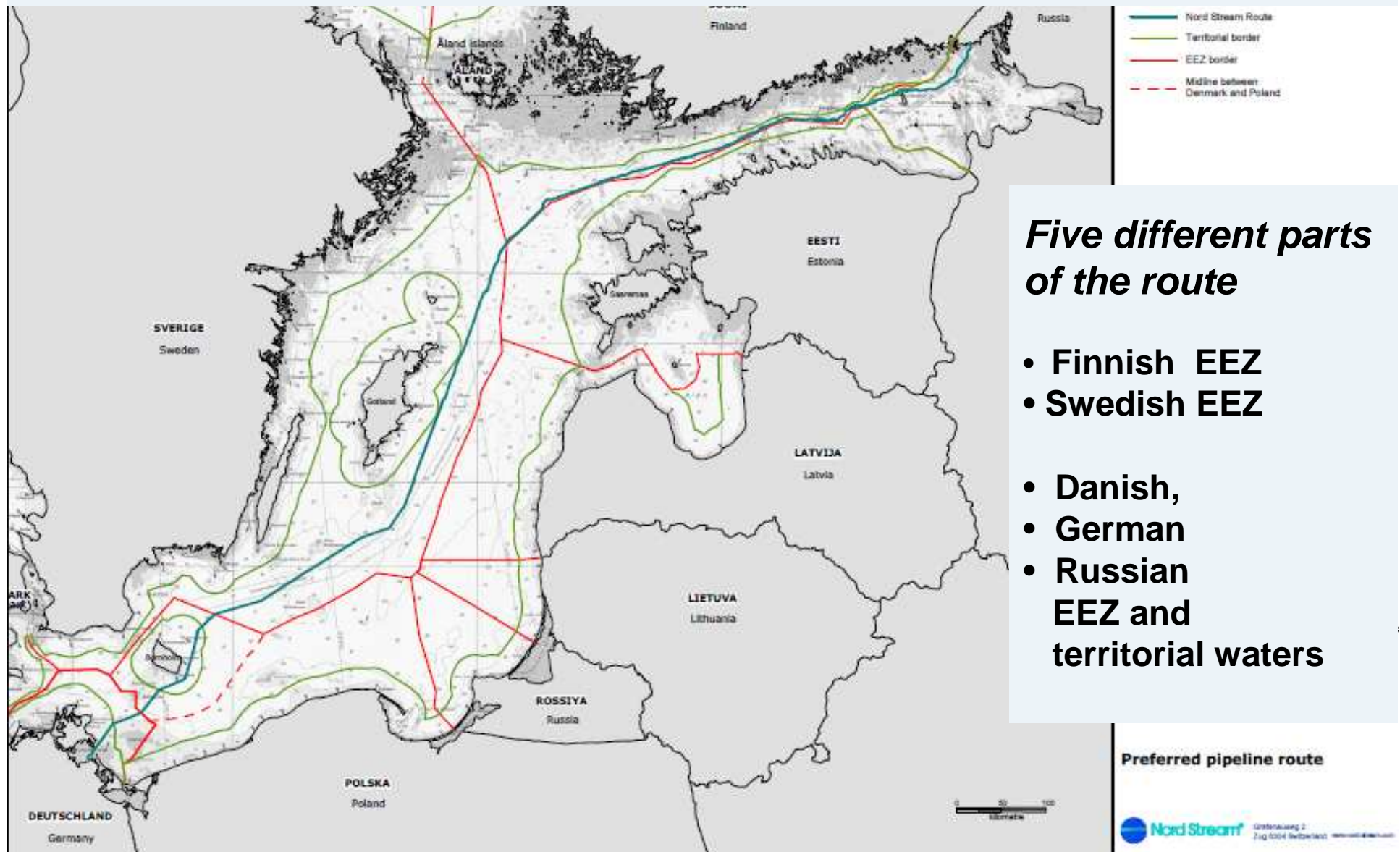
(not signed)



# Baltic Sea Region cooperation

- **Subregional cooperation an activity in Convention's work plan for two periods between Meeting of the Parties**
- **Three meetings with Baltic Sea Region countries held in Stockholm, Copenhagen and Vilnius**
- **Next meeting in March 2011 in Espoo, Finland**
- **Baltic Sea Region cooperation proved very rewarding**

# Nord Stream project



## *Five different parts of the route*

- Finnish EEZ
- Swedish EEZ
- Danish,
- German
- Russian EEZ and territorial waters