

**IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**  
**CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY**  
**CONTEXT**  
**PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

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Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Ref. EIA/IC/CI/6 Kostolac lignite power plant in Serbia

19 November 2018

Dear Ms. Veder,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003).

At its forty-second session, held in Geneva from 11 to 14 September 2018, the Committee considered the compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Convention in relation to the planned construction of a third block of the Kostolac lignite power plant in Serbia, by the River Danube, close to the border with Romania (EIA/IC/CI/6).

I am now writing to you, on behalf of the Committee to inform about the outcomes of the Committees deliberations at that session as presented below.

The Committee noted the comments made by the non-governmental organization ClientEarth at the seventh meeting of the Working Group and the information received from your organization dated 18 June 2018 regarding the extension of the open-pit mine at Drmno.

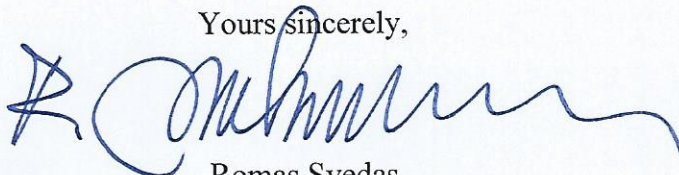
The Committee recalled that at its thirty-sixth session (5–7 September 2016) it had found that, by notifying Romania, Serbia had brought the project into compliance with article 3, paragraph 1, of the Convention. The Committee also recalled that, at the same session, it had discussed compliance by Serbia in relation to the planned extension of one of the two open-pit lignite mines (Drmno) associated with the power plant. It had noted that Serbia had concluded on the basis of a domestic assessment procedure (screening) that the increase in the yearly production limit of the open-pit lignite mine was not likely to cause adverse transboundary impacts and that consequently the application of the Convention had not been considered necessary. Taking into account the information from ClientEarth, which contained new facts in relation to the procedure regarding the open-pit mine in Drmno, the Committee decided to start gathering information regarding the mine. It requested the Committee curator for the matter to prepare a detailed analysis of the information, including the history of the case and the questions for Serbia, by 15 November 2018 for their consideration by the Committee at its forty-third session (4–7 December 2018).

Ms. Maria Jolie Veder  
ClientEarth  
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1050 Ixelles Belgium  
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The Committee then revised draft decision IS/1e on compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Convention with regard to the Kostolac lignite power plant, that will be transmitted to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration at its intermediary session.

The Committee agreed to continue its consideration of the matter at its forty-third session (4-7 December 2018).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Svedas', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Romas Svedas  
Chair, Implementation Committee,  
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment  
in a Transboundary Context  
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment