

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

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Ref. EIA/IC/INFO/14 Kostolac lignite nuclear power plant

17 April 2015

Dear Ms Ivanovic, Mr Tusovic

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 thirty-third session, held in Geneva from 17 to 19 March 2015, the Committee continued consideration of the information it had gathered further to the information provided by Bankwatch Romania Association concerning the planned construction of a lignite power plant in North-East Serbia, by the River Danube, close to the border with Romania.

The Committee noted that the construction of one block at the Kostolac lignite power plant was an activity listed in appendix I to the Convention and that the likelihood of a significant adverse transboundary impact could not be excluded. The Committee also noted that Serbia had not notified potentially affected parties about the activity referred to above. On these grounds, the Committee decided to begin a Committee initiative further to paragraph 6 of the Committee's structure and functions.

I am now writing at the request of the Committee to inform you about this decision and ask Serbia to comply without delay with its obligations under the Convention. Such compliance should begin with the notification under article 3, paragraph 1, of the Convention. I would also like to kindly request you to inform the Committee about the process by **no later than 31 October 2015**. The Committee will consider at its next session the information you provide and decide on whether it will invite Serbia, in line with paragraph 9 of the Committee's structure and functions, to participate in the discussion and to present information and opinions on the matter under consideration at the Committee's thirty-fifth (15–17 March 2016) or thirty-sixth session (5–7 September 2016).

.../...

Ms. Sabina Ivanovic
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As regards issues of compliance by Serbia with the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, I would like to inform you that the Committee decided to continue consideration of its information gathering at its next session. You are kindly requested to address the following questions:

- a) What is the status of the Energy Strategy? Has the Strategy been finally adopted and if not, at which stage of the decision-making procedure is the draft?
- b) Has the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure been carried out in relation to the draft Energy Strategy according to the Protocol on SEA?
- c) In the context of the SEA procedure for the Energy Strategy, has Serbia notified potentially affected Parties in line with article 10 of the Protocol on SEA?
- d) Does the Energy Strategy include a list of specific projects to be undertaken?
- e) What is the status of the Spatial Plan? Has the Plan been adopted and if not, at which stage of the decision-making procedure is the draft?
- f) Has the SEA procedure been carried out in relation to the draft Spatial Plan according to the Protocol on SEA?
- g) In the context of the SEA procedure for the Spatial Plan, has Serbia notified potentially affected Parties in line with article 10 of the Protocol on SEA?
- h) What is the relationship between the Energy Strategy and the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia?

Please provide the information requested to the secretariat in English by no later than **31 October 2015**, for the Committee to consider at its next session.

Yours sincerely,



Felix Zaharia
Chair, Implementation Committee,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment