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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

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Dear Mr Simpson,

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

At its twenty-eighth session, held in Geneva from 10-12 September 2013, the Committee considered the information received from a German member of the Parliament representing the Green Party expressing concerns regarding the planned construction of the nuclear power plant (NPP) Hinkley Point C by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and noting that the German Government had not been notified and the German public had not been consulted on the planned activity. Information on the same subject had also been submitted by an Irish NGO on 27 March 2013.

The Committee held preliminary discussions on the matter and agreed that it would continue its consideration of the matter at its next meeting. In the meantime, it decided to seek further clarification from the Governments of the United Kingdom, as well as of Austria, Germany and Ireland.

At the request of the Committee, I am now writing to request from the United Kingdom to address the following questions:

- (a) Has the Government of the United Kingdom made the final decision to build an NPP at Hinkley Point C? And if it has, can the Government of the United Kingdom confirm that the decision is in force and provide a copy of the final decision to the Committee? What was the outcome of the judicial review of the final decision?

.../...

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- (b) Has the Government of the United Kingdom undertaken the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for Hinkley Point C NPP project in accordance with the provisions of the Espoo Convention? And if it has, can the Government of the United Kingdom provide information about the procedure?
- (c) If the Government of the United Kingdom undertook an EIA for the Hinkley Point C NPP project, how did it provide, in accordance with the provisions of the Espoo Convention, an opportunity to the public in the areas likely to be affected, including the public outside the United Kingdom, to participate in the EIA procedure?
- (d) Did the Government of the United Kingdom notify any country about the planned construction of an NPP at Hinkley Point C? And if it did, can the Government of the United Kingdom provide copies of those notifications? Did the Government of the United Kingdom receive any responses to its notifications? And if it did, can the Government of the United Kingdom provide copies of those answers?
- (e) Does the Government of the United Kingdom consider that the proposed NPP at Hinkley Point C is likely to cause significant adverse transboundary environmental impact? If yes, which countries does it consider as potentially affected countries? Did it assess the risk of significant adverse transboundary environmental impacts, including safety issues, such as the possibility of a radiological accident at Hinkley Point C?
- (f) Can the Government of the United Kingdom provide a description of the legal, administrative or other measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Espoo Convention in relation to the project at issue at Hinkley Point C?

Please note that in order to reach a correct determination, the Committee would need precise information. Therefore, in addressing the questions above, you are kindly asked to provide relevant corroborating information and documentation, including the dates for the relevant steps of the EIA procedure.

You are kindly invited to provide the information to the secretariat by 25 November 2013 for consideration by the Committee at its next session.

Yours sincerely,



Vesna Kolar Planinšič
Chair, Implementation Committee,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context