Dear Ms. Grigoryan,

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 thirty-first session, held in Geneva from 2 to 4 September 2014, the Committee considered the follow-up by Armenia with the recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (decision VI/2). It welcomed the report of the Government on the progress made for the adoption of draft legislation on environmental assessment and took note of the ongoing revision process by a working group recently established. At the request of the Committee, the secretariat is making the necessary arrangements for the translation of those parts of the recently adopted law, which have been amended as compared to the previous draft that had been reviewed by the Committee (before the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in June 2014).

At the request of the Committee, I am now writing to inform you of the above and ask you to include the comments of the Committee, as far as possible, within the ongoing revision process regarding the environmental assessment legislation in your country.

In addition, at its thirty-first session, the Committee took note of the letter of 1 August 2014 from the Minister of Nature Protection addressed to the ECE Executive Secretary on the follow-up action concerning the Metsamor nuclear power plant. At the request of the Committee, I am now writing to seek further clarification regarding the legal status of decision authorizing the activity. Specifically:

(a) Is the decision that was subject to the proceedings before the Committee still valid? If yes, for how long?

19 September 2014

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(b) Does the construction of a new nuclear power plant, envisaged to start in 2018, require that a new authorization be issued?

You are now invited to address the above questions by no later than **21 November 2014**, 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