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IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in Transboundary Context

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva10
Switzerland

Subject: Response to the questions asked by the Implementation Committee of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment regarding the implementation of the Espoo Convention for the construction of block B3 in TPP KOSTOLAC (letter of 19 September 2014)

(a)1. The planned project envisages construction of block B3 350 MW power plant at the existing location of TPP KOSTOLAC, where Kostolac A (100 + 210 MW) and Kostolac B (2x350MW) thermal power plants are already situated, and in accordance with the spatial plan of the Republic of Serbia and Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia by 2025, with projections by 2030 on the environment, which was presented to the public during public consultation (October-November 2013) and submitted for opinion to all relevant institutions and neighboring countries. It is situated on the right bank of the Danube (within 5 km) - about 100 km downstream from Belgrade. The plant would be built in accordance with BAT and the applicable EU Directives.

2. It is anticipated that power plants use coal-lignite from the existing open pit mine "Drmino", of 7 240 kJ/kg power in the amount of 3 300 000 t/year. Cooling water will be abstracted from from the Danube and discharged into the Mlava in the amount of 26 650 m³per/h per block.

3. Work on the construction of the concerned planned project has not started yet and the final stage of completing the technical documentation is nearing the end.

(b) In the period from October 2013 to December 2013, the competent authority, carried out the procedure of deciding on environmental impact assessment through:
- adopting a decision on determining the scope and content (17/05/2013)
- adopting a decision on approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study (30/12/2013)

During the procedure all relevant authorities and the public were informed either through the media or the website of the competent authority. The public and stakeholders provided their remarks both in writing and during the public debate. The representatives of local government and non-governmental organizations, who received feedback during the decision-making

process regarding the approvals of the study and acceptance of remarks, introduced in the corrected version of the Study, were most actively involved.

(c) The Republic of Serbia, which ratified the Espoo Convention did not apply the provisions of this Convention to the project concerned. Power plant projects are contained in the Annex to the Convention, however, in this case it is not about building a new power plant with all the accompanying technical - technological aspects that would form one complete whole, but it is about installing a new unit at an existing power plant Kostolac B whose blocks have been operating from 1987 to 1991.

The concerned plant is constructed in accordance with newest environmental protection standards and in accordance with LCP and IE Directives, as well as:

IPPC – Reference on Best Available Techniques for Large combustion plants, July 2006;

IPPC – Reference on Best Available Techniques for energy efficiency, February 2009;

IPPC – Reference on Best Available Techniques for on General principles of monitoring, July 2003;

All that will contribute to raising the efficiency of the existing power plant, which includes the reduction of air pollution as well as water and soil pollution. The procedure of environmental impact assessment was completed in accordance with the national legislation through adoption of a decision on approving the Environmental Impact Assessment Study related to building block B3 in TPP “Kostolac B“ at the end of December 2013.

After reviewing the documentation and advertising approval decisions, an NGO filed a complaint with the Administrative Court against the decision that has been rendered, which is based on a claim of an incomplete procedure and failure to comply with provisions of the Espoo Convention, i.e. that during the decision-making process, the competent authority failed to inform the neighbouring countries, Romania in this case, the countries which could possibly be affected by the concerned project in terms of transboundary environmental impact.

The proceeding before the Administrative court of the Republic of Serbia is ongoing and the authority competent for implementing the environmental impact assessment procedure will act in accordance with the provisions of the Espoo Convention and the decision of the Administrative court.

Yours sincerely,

MINISTER

Professor Snežana Bogosavljević- Bošković, Ph.D

Cc: Secretariat: Ms. Aphrodite Smagadi, UNECE