



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT
SECRETARY GENERAL

No. 11473 Prot.

Tirana, on: 30. 12. 2019

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE CONCERN OF MONTENEGRO REGARDING THE COMPLIANCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT – ESPOO AND THE PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) IN RESPECT OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL HYDROPOWER PLANTS ON THE CEM (CIJEVNA) RIVER

**TO: IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
THE CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT –ESPOO AND THE PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)**

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Distinguished representatives of the Implementation Committee,

Referring to the concern raised by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro in the Implementation Committee of the Convention on Transboundary

Environmental Impact Assessment and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Protocol on the compatibility of Albania's activities with the obligations under the ESPOO Convention regarding the construction of some small hydropower plants in the CEM River, we explain as follows:

In our consideration Albania's activity has been in compliance with all obligations set out in both ESPOO Convention and the SEA Protocol, as the construction of small HPPs is not listed in Annex 1 of the ESPOO Convention nor in Annex 1 of the SEA Protocol. Moreover the Montenegrin side has not made available yet any scientific fact or argument proving that the construction of small HPPs in the Cem River would have a significant impact on the Cijevn Canyon.

However, please consider that Albania remains open and commits itself to launch transboundary consultations if relevant arguments are made available by the Montenegrin part.

Based on the above, we remain convinced that the Implementation Committee will confirm that Albania's activity has always been in line with the commitments deriving from the Convention and the Protocol.

For further information, please find attached a detailed report drafted by our inter-institutional working group, explaining the real situation and the intense correspondence held with the Montenegrin side.

Sincerely,

SECRETARY GENERAL




ADRIAN KAMENICA