

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

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Ref. EIA/IC/INFO/27 Serbia: extension of Drmno lignite pit mine

20 December 2018

Dear Ms. Ivanovic,

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 forty-third session, held in Geneva from 5 to 7 December 2018, the Committee continued its deliberations with regard to the extension of the open-pit mine at Drmno, based on the analysis of the information received from the non-governmental organization ClientEarth dated 18 June 2018.

At the request of the Committee, I am now writing to you to invite the Government of Serbia to provide the Committee with the following information and clarifications:

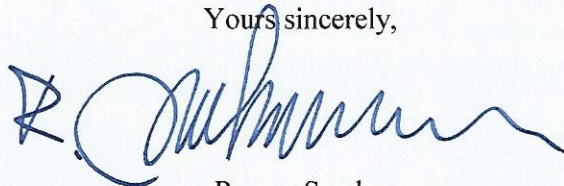
- (a) A summary description of the project, clarifying its phases, components and timelines for implementation;
- (b) The state of play of the open-pit mine, including licensing and construction procedures, as well as the state of the current mining activity, in particular:
 - (i) The exact degree of increase in the capacity of the open-pit mine according to the practice and as licensed;
 - (ii) Whether the project with its total extended capacity, including its cumulative effects, has ever been subject to an environmental impact assessment procedure according to the Serbian environmental impact assessment act and whether a screening procedure has been carried out in this regard;
- (c) A description of the possible environmental impacts of the proposed activity on the Romanian territory, near the Serbian border.
- (d) Whether the Government of Serbia has held any discussions or exchanged information with the Government of Romania regarding the activity;
- (e) Next steps concerning the further procedure for the activity (e.g. transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure, licensing procedure, discussions with the Government of Romania about the extended capacity of the mine).

Ms. Sabina Ivanovic
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Cc: Ms. M.J. Veder (mveder@clientearth.org)

You are kindly requested to provide the required information to the Committee in English through the secretariat by **15 February 2019**. The Committee will continue consideration of the matter at its forty-fourth session (Geneva, 12 to 15 March 2019).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Svedas', with a large circular flourish on the left side.

Romas Svedas
Chair, Implementation Committee,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment