

Information for the attention of Implementation Committee,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a
Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991)

To be sent through the Secretary to the Convention:

Mr. Wiek Schrage
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Office 407, Palais des Nations,
8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Genève 10, Switzerland
Tel.: +41.22.917.24.48
Fax: +41.22.917.06.13
E-mail: wiecher.schrage@unece.org
Website: www.unece.org/env/eia

Date sent to the Secretary	Not applicable.
----------------------------	-----------------

Sent by ("the source"):

Name	
Organization	UNECE secretariat
Postal address	
Country (State)	
Telephone	
Fax	
E-mail	
Website	

Concerning:

Party or Parties (States) of origin, under whose jurisdiction a proposed activity is envisaged to take place	Slovak Republic.
Affected Party or Parties (States), likely to be affected by the transboundary impact of a proposed activity	Hungary and Austria, perhaps among others.
Activity (project), identified in the list of activities in Appendix I to the Convention	Appendix I, item 2: "...nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors...".
Likely significant adverse trans-boundary impact of the activity (project)	Risk of accidents, radioactive contamination.
Provisions of the Convention (Articles) compliance with which is being contested	Notification. Article 3, paragraph 2: "For a proposed activity listed in Appendix I that is likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact, the Party of origin shall, for the purposes of ensuring adequate and effective consultations under Article 5, notify any Party which it considers may be an affected Party as early as possible and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity".

Mochovce Nuclear Power Plant in Slovakia

Description of issue	<p>The Mochovce Nuclear Power Plant, owned by Slovenské Elektrárne and Enel, is located in the south of the Slovak Republic. Construction of the plant was begun in 1982 and suspended in 1991. Work on two of the four units was restarted in 1995. The first and the second units have been operating from 1998 and 1999 respectively. In 2007 was decided to finish the third and fourth units and construction works are planned to start in 2008¹. The third and fourth units will provide a total installed electrical power of 880 MW.</p> <p>The plant's owners "on a voluntary basis, ... prepared a new EIA Study for the completion of Units 3 & 4 of Mochovce Nuclear Power Plant (MO34 NPP) according to International current practices and European Directives"², completed by September 2007. In the EIA study's summary there is no reference to transboundary impacts or to notification of potentially affected Parties.</p> <p>The European Commission has concluded that "provided that the Commission's recommendations are implemented, the aspects of the investment in question are in line, with the objectives of the Euratom Treaty"^{3,4}. The Commission made recommendations regarding safety and security aspects. Greenpeace has "condemned" the Commission's opinion that gives a "green light" to the nuclear project. The NGO argues that the Nuclear Power Plant has "serious safety and environmental implications" and adds that "the Mochovce blueprint dates back to the 1970s and has never been subject to a full independent public assessment, as is required by the Espoo Convention and European legislation"⁵.</p>
----------------------	---

For use by secretariat:

Reference number	EIA / IC / I /
Date received	Not applicable.
Original language of information	English
Translation into English by	Not applicable.
Date forwarded to Committee	
Date forwarded to Party or Parties	
Remarks by secretariat	The secretariat suggests contacting the Slovak authorities to ask whether notifications were sent [and whether public participation in neighbouring countries was facilitated].

¹ Slovenské Elektrárne 2008. NPP Mochovce Units 3 and 4. Introduction. Retrieved from Internet in September 2008:

<http://www.seas.sk/power-plants/nucelar-power-plants/3and4-blok-elektrarne-mochovce-en/>

² Golder Associates 2007. Study of Environmental Impact Assessment for Mochovce NPP Units 3&4. Executive Summary.

³ IP/08/1143. Commission issues its opinion on units 3 and 4 of the Slovak Nuclear power Plant of Mochovce. Brussels, 15 July 2008.

⁴ The treaty establishing the "European Atomic Energy Community" (EURATOM) requires that any new investment related to nuclear activities should be communicated to the Commission which will in turn transmit its views to the Member State concerned.

⁵ Greenpeace (2008). Statement on Commission opinion on Mochovce nuclear project.

Date first discussed by the Committee (possibly including preliminary determination of admissibility)	
Additional information requested of source	

For use by the Committee:

The source of the information is known and not anonymous	
The information relates to an activity listed in Appendix I to the Convention likely to have a significant adverse transboundary impact	
The information is the basis for a profound suspicion of non-compliance	
The information relates to the implementation of Convention provisions	
Committee time and resources are available	