

Statement of the representative of the Republic of Belarus in
explanation of vote after the vote

5 June 2014

Sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties
to the Espoo Convention

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Belarus highly appreciates the work done by the Implementation Committee with regard to the submission of Lithuania.

We considered and we continue to consider the draft decision VI/2 III C worked out by the Committee as a result of serious and detailed analysis of steps taken by Belarus and Lithuania in fulfilling the Committee's recommendations made in March 2013.

We believe this decision of the Committee to be a balanced document, and its adoption by the Meeting of Parties would create necessary prerequisites to make bilateral discussion more constructive.

Republic of Belarus has adopted the final decision on site and construction of Ostrovets Nuclear Power Plant, and informed Lithuania and Implementation Committee thereof. The position of Lithuania, which has refused to mention the report of the Implementation Committee to our Meeting, a document that was also adopted by the Bureau of the Meeting of Parties, in the decision of the Meeting of Parties does not have any legal grounds and undermines trust in the Committee and in its mandate.

I want to state that amendments, proposed to the draft decision, do not reflect our opinion.

Therefore, Mr. Chair, I want to make our reservation with regard to paragraph 67 bis, and we believe that at this stage we can not be bound by the paragraph 67 bis.

On the other hand, we will continue to cooperate fully with the Implementation Committee. And I confirm that the IAEA SEED mission will be invited by Belarus to visit the country.

Thank you.