

**6th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on EIA
in a Transboundary Context**

**2nd session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on EIA
in a Transboundary Context serving as the Meeting of
the Parties to the Protocol on SEA**

High-level segment

5 June 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

**Statement by Mr Chavdar Georgiev, Deputy Minister of
Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Chairs,
Ministers,
Honourable delegates,
Dear Colleagues,

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment are key instruments for collaboration between all stakeholders to prevent cross-border adverse environmental impact.

Since the entry into force of the Convention in 1997, Bulgaria has successfully implemented its requirements. In recent years we have gained a solid and rich experience in conducting EIA transboundary procedures both as a Party of origin and as an affected Party.

Examples of good practice and coordination regarding the transboundary EIA procedures in which Bulgaria is Party of origin, are the public discussions of Investment proposal “Construction of a National Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste Disposal” and Investment proposal “Facility for treatment and conditioning of solid radioactive wastes with a high volume reduction

factor at Kozloduy NPP”, organised and held successfully in Bechet, Romania, in 2011 and 2013.

Bulgaria is among the first countries that have ratified the SEA Protocol. Although that until now we do not have experience in a SEA transboundary procedure as Party of origin, we have participated as affected Party in SEA transboundary procedures with Romania and Serbia.

The application of the Espoo convention to nuclear energy-related activities is among the major topics of the present Meeting of the Parties. Bulgaria supports the development of nuclear power in strict compliance with all requirements for environmental and nuclear safety.

There is an operating nuclear power plant in Bulgaria and we find all the activities for rehabilitation and modernization of nuclear units naturally determined, including the extension of the lifetime of existing nuclear power plants and the construction of new ones.

We are convinced of the necessity of responsible observance of national, European and international nuclear safety requirements concerning the environment and human health and security as well. In this regard, we support not only conducting regular monitoring of the impact of operating nuclear power plants, but also compliance with all regulatory requirements of the Espoo Convention, the EIA Directive and the respective nuclear safety regulations.

In conclusion, I would like to assure of the continuous support of the Bulgarian Government by keeping the same level of financial contributions to the budget of the Convention and the Protocol in the new intersessional period.

Thank for your attention!