

Decision VIII/4c

Compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling article 11, paragraph 2, and article 14 bis of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context,

Recalling also its decisions VI/2, paragraphs 48–64,¹ and IS/1d² concerning compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the construction of the nuclear power plant in Ostrovets,

Recalling further its decision VIII/4³ on general issues of compliance with the Convention adopted at the eighth session,

Having considered the section concerning Belarus in the report on the activities of the Implementation Committee to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its eighth session,⁴

1. *Reaffirms* its decision IS/1d on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets and urges Belarus to apply the Convention in the future with regard to a proper evaluation of reasonable alternatives further to paragraph 16 of that decision;

2. *Notes* the annual reports provided by Belarus and Lithuania further to paragraph 59 of decision VI/2 and paragraph 20 of decision IS/1d;

3. *Notes also* the steps taken by Belarus and Lithuania since the intermediary session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 5–7 February 2019) further to paragraphs 16–20 of decision IS/1d, but expresses concern regarding the limited progress made by the Parties concerned in addressing the requirements set out in paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 of that decision;

4. *Endorses* the finding of the Committee that Belarus and Lithuania have not yet fulfilled the requirements set out in paragraphs 17–19 of decision IS/1d and again encourages both Parties to comply with these requirements by the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties, with a view to:

(a) Concluding the bilateral agreement for the implementation of the Convention further to article 8 of the Convention;

(b) Carrying out a post-project analysis, involving reaching an agreement on establishing a joint bilateral body and procedures for such analysis, in particular for ensuring sufficient public participation in the framework of the post-project analysis;

(c) Continuing bilateral expert consultations on issues of disagreement, including on matters that are beyond the scope of the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Government of Belarus and the Government of Lithuania to report by the end of each year to the Implementation Committee on the progress made in implementing the requirements set out in paragraphs 17–19 of decision IS/1 d;

6. *Requests* the Implementation Committee to report to the Meeting of the Parties at its ninth session on the progress made.

¹ See ECE/MP.EIA/20/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4/Add.1.

² See ECE/MP.EIA/27/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/11/Add.1.

³ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2.

⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/2020/4 – ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/4, paras. 24–31.