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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Ref. SEA/IC/SCI/1/1

19 September 2014

Dear Ms. Petek,

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.

The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol requested the Committee to take into account in its work general and specific compliance issues identified in the First Review of Implementation (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/3, adopted by decision II/1), based on questionnaires returned by Parties (available at <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/environmental-impact-assessment/areas-of-work/enveiaimplementationreview-implementation/review-of-implementation-2013-protocol.html>).

At its thirty-first session, held in Geneva from 2 to 4 September 2014, the Committee noted that in its reply to the questionnaire regarding the public availability of screening decisions (question 14), Austria had indicated that some screening decisions were made publicly available after the decision had been taken, others were made available in the planning report or planning documentation.

The Committee recalled that article 5, paragraph 4, of the Protocol required that the screening conclusions be made available to the public in a timely manner.

In the light of the above, the Committee asked me to write to you on its behalf to seek clarification on the application of this provision to screening decisions that are made available to the public in the planning report or planning documentation, i.e. what is the time span between the adoption of the screening conclusions and the publication of the planning report/documentation to ensure that publication of the screening conclusions still meet the timeliness requirement of article 5, paragraph 4.

.../...

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You are kindly requested to provide written clarification to the Convention's secretariat no later than **21 November 2014** for the Committee's consideration at its next session.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Felix Zaharia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Felix Zaharia
Chair, Implementation Committee,
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment