

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY
CONTEXT
PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mr. Romas Svedas
Telephone: +370 677 42699
E-mail: romas.svedas@tspmi.vu.lt

Institute of International Relations and Political Science
Vilnius University
Vokieciu str. 10, LT-01130
Vilnius, Lithuania

Secretariat: Ms. Elena Santer, UNECE
Telephone: +41 (0)22 917 2090
E-mail: eia.conv@un.org, elena.santer@un.org

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Ref. ECE/IC/INFO/33 Bosnia and Herzegovina: The construction of the Buk Bijela hydropower plant

2 November 2020

Dear Ms. Golic,

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 (Kyiv, 2003).

At its forty-eighth session, held using videoconferencing from 1 to 4 September 2020, the Committee noted the joint information from two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Aarhus Centar and Centre for Environment) and two NGOs from Montenegro (Green Home and Environmental Movement "Ozon") of 15 May 2020 regarding the compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its obligations under the Convention with respect to the construction of the Buk Bijela hydropower plant. At the request of the Committee, I hereby, transmit to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina for its consideration the correspondence from the four NGOs.

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is kindly invited to provide any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the correspondence and describing any response that might have been made in the meantime along with the following initial clarifications and information regarding the activity:

- (a) A detailed description of the planned activity, including its location, the distance to the neighbouring countries, its capacity, characteristics and the current status;

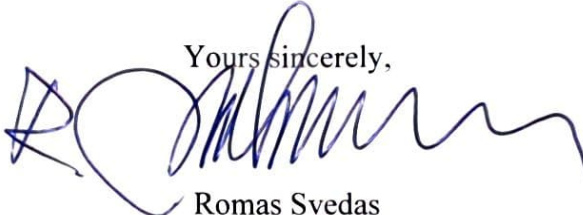
Ms. Srebrenka Golic
Focal Point for Administrative Matters
regarding the Espoo Convention
Ministry of Spatial Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of the Republic of Srpska
Banja Luka

- (b) The validity and nature (definite/indefinite) of current licences and the need for their renewal/alterations;
- (c) Information about the environmental impact assessment process, including the transboundary impact assessment process, for the planned activity:
- (i) Have the potentially affected countries been notified in accordance with article 3 of the Convention? If so, please provide copies of those notifications;
 - (ii) Has the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina received any responses from the potentially affected countries? If so, please provide copies of those answers;
- (d) Has the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina taken the necessary legal, administrative and other measures to implement the provisions of the Convention with respect to the activity?

To enable the Committee to continue its deliberations on the matter at its fiftieth session (Geneva, 2 to 5 February 2021), the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is kindly requested to provide the required information in English through the secretariat by no later than **12 January 2021**.

—

Yours sincerely,



Romas Svedas
Chair of the Implementation Committee

Enclosure: Join information of 15 May 2020 from four non-governmental organizations regarding the compliance of Bosnia and Herzegovina with its obligations under the Convention with respect to the construction of the Buk Bijela hydropower plant.