

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

Mr. Joe Ducomble

Telephone: +352 247-86848
E-mail: joe.ducomble@mev.etat.lu

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

Ministry of Environment, Climate and Sustainable
Development
4, Place de l'Europe
L-1499 Luxembourg

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Ref. SEA/IC/CI/1: Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period up to 2025 with Projections up to 2030 and the Strategy's implementation Programme for the Period 2017–2023

3 November 2021

Dear Ms. Dimitrova,

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).

As you are aware, on 2 April 2014, non-governmental organization (NGO) Bankwatch Romania provided information to the Implementation Committee regarding the planned construction by Serbia of a lignite power plant in north-east Serbia, by the River Danube, close to the border with Romania. At its thirty-first session (Geneva, 2–4 September 2014), the Committee began its consideration of the information provided regarding the activity. Due to possible issues arising in relation to the Protocol, the Committee at its thirty-second session (Geneva, 9–11 December 2014), begun gathering information concerning the domestic and transboundary strategic environmental procedures according to the Protocol for the Energy Strategy and the Spatial Plan (information gathering case with symbol SEA/IC/INFO/1). At its forty-sixth session (Geneva, 10–13 December 2019) the Committee decided to begin a Committee initiative further to paragraph 6 of the Committee's Structure and functions.

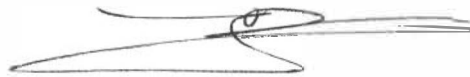
In the context of its proceeding regarding the matter the Committee gathered information from Bulgaria, as a potentially affected Party. The information provided by Bulgaria is referred to in the attached draft findings and recommendations prepared by the Committee at its fifty-first session (4–7 October 2021) as set out in paragraph 9 of the Committee's Structure and functions following its meeting with representatives of the Government of Serbia on 10 November 2020.

Ms. Silviya Dimitrova
Focal Point for Administrative Matters
regarding the Espoo Convention
Ministry of Environment and Water
Sofia

You may recall that, according to paragraph 9 of the Committee's Structure and functions and Rule 13 of the Committee's Operating rules, the Committee shall send a copy of the draft findings and recommendations to the Parties concerned, and shall take into account any representations from such Parties in the finalization of the draft. In accordance with this provision, the Government of Bulgaria is invited to submit to the secretariat **by 5 January 2022** at the latest your comments or representations.

The Implementation Committee will consider these comments or representations before finalizing its findings and recommendations at its fifty-second session (1–4 February 2022). Once finalized, the Committee's findings and recommendations shall be submitted to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, which is expected to be held in December 2023, for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Ducombe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Ducombe
Chair of the Implementation Committee

Enclosure: Draft findings and recommendations of the Implementation Committee on compliance by Serbia with its obligations under the Protocol in respect of the Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the Period up to 2025 with Projections up to 2030 and the Programme for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Period 2017–2023.