

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

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Ref. EIC/IC/INFO/22 Construction of a temporary spent fuel storage facility at the Almaraz nuclear power plant

20 December 2018

Dear Mr. Dominguez Collado,

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-third session, held in Geneva from 5 to 7 December 2018, the Committee continued its consideration of the information dated 27 January 2017 by the Portuguese political party Pessoas-Animaís-Natureza concerning the planned construction of a temporary spent fuel storage facility at the Almaraz nuclear power plant in Spain.

Further to its analysis of the information from Spain dated 20 February 2018 and from Portugal dated 4 December 2017, the Committee noted that at the time that Spain had carried out the relevant domestic environmental impact assessment procedure of the planned construction of the temporary spent fuel storage facility at the Almaraz nuclear power plant, the second amendment to the Convention had not yet been in force. Consequently, that activity did not yet fall under the Convention, i.e. was not yet listed in appendix I of the Convention. It also noted that further to the mediation exercise led by the European Union, both countries had reached an agreement on 21 February 2017 and had issued a joint statement on 29 April 2017.

At the request of the Committee, I am now writing to you to invite the Government of Spain to provide the Committee with the following information and clarifications:

- (a) The current status of the proposed activity;
- (b) Whether the correspondence with regard to the proposed activity with Portugal in autumn 2016, including the letter dated 11 November 2016 informing Portugal about Spain's view concerning a significant adverse transboundary impact in respect of the proposed activity and the need for a notification, was according to the provisions of article 2, paragraph 5, of the Convention. Please provide a copy and an English translation of the letter;
- (c) Whether during the EU mediation process leading to the joint statement on the agreement in April 2017 the Governments of Portugal and Spain reached an agreement that a significant adverse transboundary impact on the territory of Portugal was likely;

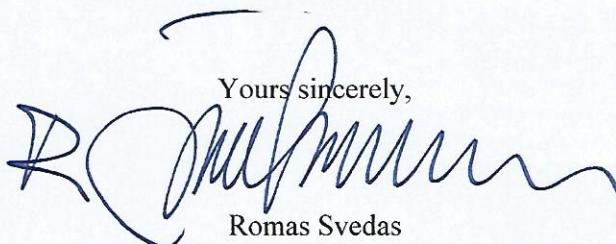
Mr. Eugenio Jesus Dominguez Collado
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- (d) The steps that the Government of Spain has undertaken or intends to undertake with regard to the proposed activity under the Convention.

You are kindly requested to provide the required information to the Committee through the secretariat by **15 February 2019**. The Committee will continue consideration of the matter at its forty-fourth session (Geneva, 12 to 15 March 2019).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Svedas', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Romas Svedas
Chair, Implementation Committee,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment