

08.07.2015 N/14-7/1610

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Environmental Division

Sergiusz Ludwiczak

Officer-in-Charge

Dear Mr. Ludwiczak,

Referring to Mr. Marco Keiner's letter of 8 April 2015 Ref: ENV/2015/ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus expresses its gratitude for the information provided.

As regards the information, we would like to note that the type of activity – (construction of NPP in Ostrovets) - mentioned in the letter, is contained both in Annex I to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (hereafter - Aarhus Convention) («...nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors...»), and in Appendix I to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (hereafter - Espoo Convention) («...nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors...»).

The Republic of Belarus is Party to both the above-mentioned International Treaties.

In connection with this, with regard to the mentioned type of activity, hearings for public of the Republic of Belarus have been held according to the provisions of the Aarhus Convention. Currently, on this subject the Republic of Belarus has received and is implementing recommendations, approved by the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention.

For the public concerned, which is located outside the borders of the Republic of Belarus, the public hearings have been organized in accordance with the provisions of the Espoo Convention.

Facts listed in the information received by the Republic of Belarus, anyway, are related to the implementation of the provisions of the Espoo Convention.

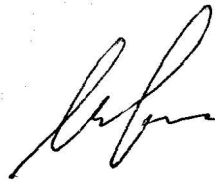
Issues connected with the implementation by the Republic of Belarus of the provisions of the Espoo Convention in regard to the proposed activity are already the subject of consideration under the communication EIA/IC/2011/4. All the necessary documents have been submitted to the Implementation Committee to the Espoo Convention.

At present the Republic of Belarus, for its part, is analyzing the information received from the point of view of its correspondence with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention, taking into consideration the information, based on which the Implementation Committee to the Espoo Convention has taken decisions related to the Republic of Belarus.

Due to the need for the documents to be translated into the Russian language, which is time consuming, we would like to use the opportunity provided by paragraph 15 of Decision I/7, and submit the information as soon as it is ready, but no later than 6 month starting from the date of the above mentioned letter.

Yours sincerely,

First Deputy Minister



Iya Malkina