Dear Ms. Baron,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991).

At its seventeenth session, held in Geneva from 14 to 18 September 2009, the Committee considered replies by the Governments of Belgium and the Netherlands, dated 25 and 22 June 2009, respectively, to the Chair’s letter of 7 April 2009, further to information provided by a Dutch non-governmental organization (NGO), ‘Comité Centrale Néé (CCN)’, regarding a proposed activity in Belgium (ECE/Mp.EIA/IC/2009/2, para. 50). The Committee considered that there were still aspects that remained unclear, particularly with regard to the allegations made by the NGO.

The Committee therefore seeks clarification as to whether the EIA documentation fulfilled the minimum content requirements, whether, what and how alternatives were considered, and on the timeframe for the different opportunities for public participation. You are requested to provide written information to the Convention’s secretariat no later than 31 December 2009.

The Committee agreed to discuss the reply, if appropriate, at its next session, 23 to 25 February 2010, and considered that it might then have further questions.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Matthias Sauer
Chair, Implementation Committee,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Ms. Eva BARON, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment
P.O. Box 30945, 2500 GX THE HAGUE / ipc 660, Fax: +31 70 339 13 02, E-mail: eva.baron@minvrom.nl