

The intermediary session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, 5 - 7 February 2019

Zygimantas Vaiciunas – Minister of Energy, acting temporarily as Minister of Environment

Chair,

Ministers,

Heads of delegations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

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First of all, Lithuania would like to thank the Espoo Bureau and Espoo Secretariat for their input on organising the meeting, including the hard job done between the meetings.

Espoo Convention serves as a guarantee to promote sound decision-making based on the highest international environmental and human health standards. Comprehensive analysis and attentive preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation are core principles of this international treaty. Lithuania finds the Espoo convention extremely important international tool for, first and foremost, minimising possible significant adverse impact of the proposed activities worldwide and, second, improvement the quality of environment impact assessments.

By analysing experience of the Parties and discussions that were hold during this meeting we have found that sometimes Parties are feeling like being on opposite sides. The confirmed non-compliance is not a blame, but the lesson we need to learn.

I would like to encourage the Parties to take into account not only their interests, but to take into account the interests of the Convention and other Parties. Just remember that each Party can appear in the role of the affected country when the activities in the neighbourhood are performed in violation of the rules.

By ending this statement, I would like to say that Lithuania highly appreciates the work done by the Implementation Committee which serves as fundamental guardian of the Espoo Convention. Lithuania invites all Parties to further support the independent, competent and credible Body established by the Convention as well as work of experts of the Implementation Committee.

Finally, I would like to stress that being the Party to Convention is not just a formality, the main issue and core of this commitment is the implementation of the Convention.

The decisions adopted today shows the work completed successfully as it was the original intention of this Intermediary session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Thank you for your attention.