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UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE POUR L'EUROPE ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ FOR EUROPE

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

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Ref. EIA/IC/S/3

Dear Ms. Grigoryan,

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).

As you are aware, on 5 May 2011 the Government of Azerbaijan made a submission to the Committee expressing concerns about Armenia's compliance with its obligations under the Convention with respect to the planned building of a nuclear power plant unit in Metsamor, Armenia. A meeting of the Committee was held with the two Parties concerned on 22 March 2012. The Committee subsequently prepared the attached draft findings and recommendations, which should not be publicly available at this stage.

You may also recall that the Meeting of the Parties has decided that "the Committee shall decide on the content of any report or recommendations by consensus, send a copy of the draft report or recommendations to the Parties concerned, and shall take into account any representations from such Parties in the finalization of the report" (para. 9 of the Committee's structure and functions and the procedures for the review of compliance, as included in the appendix to decision III/2). In accordance with this provision, you are invited to submit to the secretariat by 15 August 2012 at the latest your comments or representations.

The Implementation Committee will consider these comments or representations before finalizing its report. In addition, the Committee agreed at its twenty-fourth session that for the finalization of its findings and recommendations, it needed to assess how Armenia and Azerbaijan intended to continue the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure with respect to the construction of the nuclear power plant unit in Metsamor.

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Kindly submit this information to the Committee, through the secretariat, together with your representations on the draft findings and recommendations, by 15 August 2012

Please be aware that the Committee's findings and recommendations shall be submitted to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, which is expected to be held in May or June 2014, for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Vesna Kolar Planinšič

Chair, Implementation Committee, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment

in a Transboundary Context