

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

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Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
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Ref. EIA/IC/CI/5 - Hinkley Point C NPP

24 December 2014

Dear Mr. Simpson,

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

At its thirty-second session, held in Geneva from 9 to 11 December 2014, the Committee continued its consideration of the information it gathered on its initiative on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the planned construction of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant (EIA/IC/CI/5). The Committee also reviewed the additional information provided by the United Kingdom on 21 November 2014.

Following the response by the United Kingdom, with this letter, I invite your Government to be represented at the next session of the Committee to be held in Geneva, Palais des Nations, from 17 to 19 March 2015. The discussion is scheduled to take place on 18 March 2015, starting approximately at 10am. More details about the timeline of the meeting will be provided by the secretariat at a later stage.

The Committee will start by considering the initiative in a closed session, followed by a brief presentation by the United Kingdom (not exceeding 20 minutes) and questions by the Committee. The Committee will then consider the initiative again in a closed session to start drafting its findings and recommendations.

The United Kingdom should be prepared to discuss its response to the questions previously asked by the Committee (see letters of 14 October 2013 and 17 December 2013). The Committee may decide to send additional questions to the United Kingdom in advance of the session.

I would also like to refer to the reasons upon which the Committee had found that there was a profound suspicion of non-compliance and had decided to begin a Committee initiative further to paragraph 6 of the Committee's structure and functions, which are detailed in the Committee's report (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2014/2 paras. 33–35) and in its letter to the United Kingdom of 14 March 2014. In the Committee's view, the opportunity provided by the United Kingdom to Austria to participate under the Espoo Convention had demonstrated the agreement of the two Parties that a likely significant environmental impact on Austrian territory could not be excluded according to article 3, paragraph 7 of the Convention. This likelihood of a significant environmental impact outside the UK territory had also not been excluded by the Netherlands and Norway, in their letters of 23 January and 5 February 2014, respectively.

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Finally, I would also like to remind you of the rules 11 and 15 paragraph 4 of the operating rules of the Implementation Committee, which indicate the following:

“Rule 11

1. Generally, the Committee should not begin the formal discussion on a matter at any meeting that takes place before any requested reply has been received from the Party whose compliance is in question or the applicable deadline for replying has passed. This paragraph should be applied, mutatis mutandis, in the case that the Committee requests additional information from the Submitting Party.

2. When it is known that the Committee will discuss the matter of any submission at a particular meeting, the secretariat should notify the Parties involved that the matter will be discussed as well as of their right to present to the Committee information and opinions on the matter under consideration.

[...]

4. Generally, the Parties involved should present any new substantial information to the Committee through the secretariat at least two weeks in advance of the meeting at which the matter will be discussed.”

“Rule 15, para. 4

4. Rules 11 to 14 should be applied, mutatis mutandis, in the case of a Committee initiative.”

You are kindly invited to provide the secretariat with a confirmation of your country’s participation and the composition of your delegation well in advance of the session and no later than **2 March 2015**, to enable the secretariat to make all necessary arrangement for your access to the Palais des Nations.

Yours sincerely,



Felix Zaharia
Chair, Implementation Committee,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment