

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT
PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Ref. EIA/IC/CI/5 - Hinkley Point C NPP

28 March 2018

Dear Mr. Hughes,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003).

At its forty-first session, held in Geneva from 13 to 16 March 2018, the Committee continued the consideration of its initiative on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the planned construction of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant and its review of draft MOP decision VII/2 (paras. 69–72).

I am now writing to you on behalf of the Committee to inform the Government of United Kingdom about the Committee's deliberations at that session and the next steps to be taken by the Committee when preparing the revised the draft decision VII/2 for the consideration of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) at its 'intermediary' session (Geneva, 5-7 February 2018).

First, the Committee noted the information from the United Kingdom dated 4 January 2018 and 7 February 2018 about the outcomes of the consultations with the interested Parties that had already provided the response. It also noted the information from Ireland of 12 February 2018 and from the Irish non-governmental organisation, Environmental Pillar, of 12 and 20 February 2018 about the launch of the public consultations on the proposed activity in Ireland.

Further to the analysis of that information by the curator, the Committee noted that it lacked clarity about whether the Parties that had found the notification necessary (Austria, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Norway) had been satisfied with the outcomes of the consultations with the United Kingdom regarding the activity or whether they would wish to further continue the discussions with the United Kingdom, in accordance with article 3 para. 7, for reaching an agreement on whether there is likely to be a significant transboundary impact with regard to the proposed activity. The Committee agreed to ask its Chair to write to the above countries and invite them to provide relevant clarifications the Committee by 30 April 2018 (see also ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2018/2, advance version, para 53).

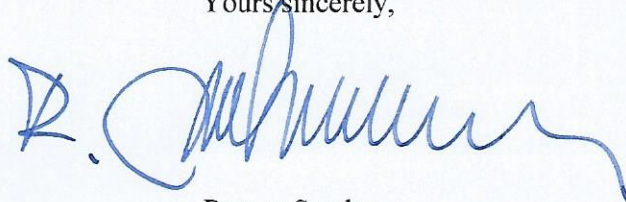
Mr. David Hughes
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At the request of the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session, the Committee then reviewed and revised draft MOP decision VII/2 regarding the United Kingdom (to be presented as draft MOP decision IS/1h). It agreed to further revise the draft MOP decision and the Committee's detailed findings and recommendations from 2016 regarding the activity (see ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2016/2, annex) on the basis of the clarifications to be provided by Austria, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Norway.

Once prepared, the Committee agreed to send the revised findings and recommendations to the United Kingdom inviting the Government of the United Kingdom to submit to the secretariat its comments or representations. The Committee further agreed to consider any comments or representations by the United Kingdom before finalizing the revised findings and recommendations and draft MOP decision IS/1h at its forty-second session (Geneva, 11-14 September 2018) and to annex the revised findings and recommendations to the report on that session. The revised draft decision IS/1h will be forwarded by the secretariat for the consideration of the Meeting of the Parties at its 'intermediary' session.

Yours sincerely,



Romas Svedas
Chair, Implementation Committee,
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment