

ANNEX III: Answer from the Deputy State Secretary of Environment at the Ministry of Rural Development

Ministry of Rural Development
Sándor Fazekas, Dr.
Deputy State Secretary of Environmental and Nature Protection

File number: KmF/328 – 1/2013

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to:

Mrs. Bernadett Szél, Dr.
Member of Parliament
Offices of Parliament
Budapest
Széchenyi rkp. 19.
1358

Re: proceedings of the international environmental impact assessment of the goldmine in Muzhijevo, Ukraine

Dear Honourable Mrs. Bernadett Szél, Dr.!

In reply to your query about the gold mine in Muzhiyevo, Ukraine, I give you the following information.

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, done at Espoo (Finland), on 25 February 1991 (Espoo Convention) supplements the process of the environmental impact assessment of a given investment with the assessment of the significant expected transboundary environmental impacts.

According news published, Zoltán Illés, Dr., The Minister of State for Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of Rural Development, in the attached letter, dated 2011 November 30, reg. no. KmF 451 / 2011, inquired about the authorization process for the reopening of the gold mine in Muzhiyevo. In his letter, the Minister drew the attention of the Ukrainian party to the fact, that according to the Espoo Convention, Hungary considers herself an affected party in connection with the gold mine in Muzhiyevo. Therefore, according to article 2 (5) of the Espoo Convention, Hungary asked for notification about the initiation of the authorization process of the related environmental impact assessment.

The Hungarian-Ukrainian Intergovernmental Joint Committee, which serves cross-border cooperation, held its last meeting on 28-29 March 2012. On this occasion, the Committee asked the Ukrainian party again, in coordination with the Espoo Convention, to notify Hungary as soon as the environmental impact assessment of the gold mine project is completed.

Nevertheless, we have received no notification from Ukraine in connection with the gold mine; therefore the environmental impact assessment documentation is not available to us and we don't have any kind of information about the state of the authorization process. Given the above, we will suggest the Hungarian-Ukrainian Intergovernmental Joint Committee, as well as the working group within the framework of the Convention on issues related to water management of transboundary watercourses, that they discuss the issue again on the next session's agenda.

Lastly, allow me to call your attention to the Hungarian Government's web page (<http://www.kormany.hu/hu/vidékfejlesztési-minisztérium/kormányzatugyert-felelos-allamtitkarsag/hirek/nemzekozi-kornyezetvedelmi>), where you can find documentation related to the international environmental impact assessment process, in accordance with the Espoo Convention, whether it involves Hungary as an affected, or issuer party. I thank you for the consideration you show for environmental protection and wish you success in your further work!

Budapest, 2013. August 16.

Yours faithfully,
András Rác, Dr.

Seal: Ministry of Rural Development, Deputy Secretary of State