

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

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

26 September 2017

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) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003).

At its thirty-ninth session, held in Geneva from 5 to 7 September 2017, 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 NPP (EIA/IC/CI/5).

The Committee reviewed its recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties as supplemented at its thirty-eighth session, taking into account the comments received on 2 August 2017 from the United Kingdom on these modifications and the discussions held during the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties with respect to paragraphs 69 – 72 of draft decision VII/2.

Further to the analysis of the information provided by the United Kingdom on 26 April 2017 and 2 August 2017, the Committee noted that the United Kingdom had contacted all the Parties to the Espoo Convention and then entered into discussions with those Parties that had indicated to it that they would find a notification regarding the activity at Hinkley Point C useful (i.e. Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Norway) or that had expressed their interest in further discussions and/or information about the planned activity (Denmark and Luxembourg). The Committee noted that on 28 July 2017, the United Kingdom had shared information with the above listed Parties about the activity and offered them “an opportunity to comment in relation to potential transboundary impacts” by 20 October 2017 so as to give the Parties “ample opportunity to consult their public (should they consider it necessary)”.

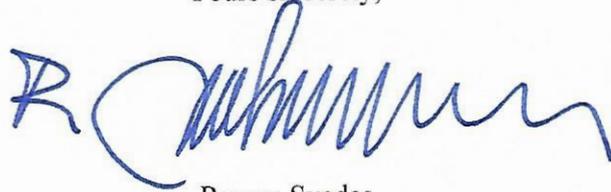
Welcoming the ongoing consultations with the interested Parties, the Committee agreed to resume its discussions on the matter at its next session with a view to finalizing the recommendations for consideration of the Meeting of the Parties at its ‘intermediary’ session. To enable further consideration of the matter by the Committee, I am now writing on behalf of the Committee to kindly request you to inform the Committee by 15 November 2017 about the outcomes of the consultations with the interested Parties, and how these outcomes were addressed by the United Kingdom.

.../ ...

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At the same time, I wish to inform you that following further deliberations on the matter, the Committee maintained that in its view the United Kingdom was to refrain from carrying out works with respect to the planned activity until the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure was finalized, considering that such works, including earthworks and civil construction activities, might render the results of the procedure irrelevant.

Yours sincerely,



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