

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
Switzerland

Ref. ECE/IC/INFO/27 Serbia: extension of Drmno lignite pit mine

09 April 2019

Dear Mr. Dumitrescu,

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-fourth session, held in Geneva from 12 to 15 March 2019, the Committee continued its deliberations further to the information received from the NGO ClientEarth dated 18 June 2018 concerning the capacity extension of the open-pit mine at Drmno.

The Committee noted the information from Romania dated 15 February 2019 and from Serbia dated 22 February 2019, that Romania had communicated its wish to be notified with regard to the planned construction of the third block of the Kostolac lignite power plant and to the expansion of the lignite mine in 2015. In June 2016, Serbia notified Romania regarding the power plant, and carried out a transboundary EIA procedure under the Convention with the participation of Romania. As part of its notification, Serbia had also informed Romania that the screening procedure from 2013 had concluded that no EIA was necessary for the extension of the open pit mine. The two Parties had discussed and exchanged information on that matter during the transboundary procedure. Serbia had answered fully all the questions from the Romanian authorities and the public regarding the Drmno mine, including those from the NGO 'Bankwatch Romania'. No likely significant adverse transboundary environmental impacts of the proposed activity on Romania had been identified.

Mr. Aureliu Dumitrescu
Focal Point for Administrative Matters
regarding the Espoo Convention
Ministry of Environment
Bucharest

cc: Ms Maria Jolie Veder, ClientEarth

The Committee also noted that, in their letters to the^b Committee, the Governments of Romania and Serbia did not provide any comments on the information from ClientEarth concerning the territory of the open pit mine that differed from the information reported during the EIA procedure, indicating that the mine was expanded 5 km beyond the boundaries established by the permit.

At the request of the Committee, I am now writing to you to invite the Government of Romania to provide the Committee with the following information and clarifications:

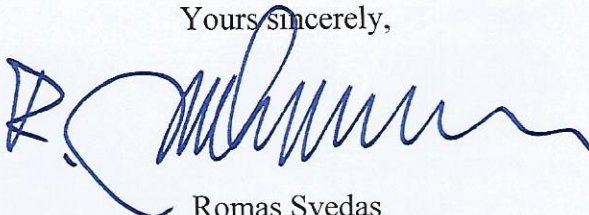
(a) Its views on the information from the ClientEarth with regard to the territory of the open pit mine;

(b) Whether it was satisfied with the assessment of the possible adverse transboundary environmental impacts with regard to the Drnmo open pit mine that had been carried out within the EIA procedure of the third block of the Kostolac lignite power plant under the Convention and, whether it could confirm that the procedure was completed;

(c) Whether it intends to take other procedural steps in accordance with the Convention. In case it does, please specify what steps these would be.

The Government of Romania is kindly invited to provide the requested information in English through the secretariat by **1 June 2019**. The Committee will continue its consideration of the matter at its next session (Geneva, 10-13 September 2019).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Romas Svedas', with a large, stylized initial 'R'.

Romas Svedas
Chair of the Implementation Committee