

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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Mr. Felix Zaharia
Chair of Implementation Committee
Convention on Environmental Impact
Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Ms. Aphrodite Smagadi, Secretary
Convention on Environmental Impact
Assessment in a Transboundary Context
Environment Division
Office S.319, Palais des Nations, CH - 1211
Geneva 10
Switzerland

REPORT ON STEPS TAKEN BY LITHUANIA IN REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ESPOO CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. Zaharia and Ms. Smagadi,

We would like to present Lithuanian yearly report on the implementation of the recommendations further to a submission by Lithuania regarding Belarus set out in Decision VI/2 on the Review of compliance with the Convention adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on its sixth session on 2–5 June 2014, as requested by the Meeting of the Parties.

In 2014 Lithuania actively took initiatives and actions towards the effective implementation of the above mentioned recommendations, which are described in detail in the enclosed report.

In 2014 we continued intensive bilateral discussion with the Republic of Belarus on the concrete steps with regard to the transboundary EIA procedure of the nuclear power plant project (NPP) in Belarus, which would help to ensure the overall quality of the transboundary process. However, we have to admit with regret, that the requests and proposals regarding the step-by-step approach (submission of the answers to the key questions raised by Lithuania, update of the EIA report, co-arrangement of public hearings in the territory of Lithuania, organization of bilateral consultations, adoption of the final decision, carrying out of post-project analysis) and IAEA Site and External Events Design (SEED) review mission to evaluate selected site were neglected by Belarus by further pushing the construction of the NPP in the Republic of Belarus.

We sincerely hope that the information provided in the Lithuanian yearly report will be useful for thorough analysis of the steps undertaken by both parties since the 27th session of the Implementation Committee, held on 12-14 March, 2013.

Taking the opportunity, we would like to reiterate our support to the work done by the Implementation Committee in analyzing the case and its contribution towards transparent and safe implementation of the NPP project in Belarus since 2011. We are looking forward to close cooperation and are ready to submit further clarifications if needed.

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ENCLOSURE:

- 1. Lithuanian yearly report, 2014, 10 pages;
- 2. The EIA process of the Belarus NPP. A fact-sheet, 3 pages.

Yours sincerely,

Algirdas Genevicius Vice-Minister

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