Dear Mr. Buchko,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991).

At its sixteenth session, held in Berlin from 10 to 12 March 2009, the Committee reviewed information provided by the secretariat regarding a pumped hydropower plant on the Dniester River in Ukraine upstream of the Republic of Moldova. The committee member nominated by the Republic of Moldova (Ms. Olaru) left the room in accordance with the Committee’s operating rules.

The Committee asked that I write to you to seek information on the state expertise, permitting or consent, and EIA procedures (including in a transboundary context), particularly on the exact dates of the steps taken. The Committee also wished to know:

(a) whether EIA documentation had been prepared;
(b) whether such documentation addressed transboundary impact;
(c) whether a notification had been sent and, if not, why not.

You are requested to provide written information to the Convention’s secretariat no later than 30 June 2009.

The Committee agreed to discuss the reply at its next session, from 14 to 18 September 2009, and considered that it might then have further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mathias Sauer
Chair, Implementation Committee, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

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