



**NATIONS UNIES**  
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE  
POUR L'EUROPE

**ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ**  
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

**UNITED NATIONS**  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

**IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**  
**CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT**

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12 September 2013

Dear Mr Auglys,

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

At its twenty-eighth session, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 September 2013, the Committee continued to consider the information provided by a non-governmental organization (NPP) of Belarus regarding the planned operation of the Visaginas nuclear power station and related facilities in Lithuania, close to the border with Belarus. Further clarification had been sought by the NGO and Lithuania. The Committee then considered the information from the Government of Lithuania of 13 May 2013, in response to the Committee's letter of 22 March 2013, and the information received from the NGO on 7 June 2013, in response to the Committee's letter of 25 March 2013.

The Committee agreed that it would continue its consideration of the matter at its next meeting. To this end, I invite you to provide the following further clarifications and information, in English.

- (i) How did Lithuania provide to the public of Belarus an opportunity to participate in the EIA procedure, in compliance with article 2, paragraph 6 of the Convention?
- (ii) How did Lithuania ensure that the opportunity to participate provided to the public of Belarus was equivalent to that provided to the public of Lithuania?

.../...

Mr. Vitalijus Auglys  
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(iii) Did Lithuania participate at the public hearing in Breslaw, Belarus, on 14 October 2008? Please provide details regarding the Lithuanian participation.

(iv) Did the public from Belarus participate in the public hearing held in Lithuania, on 22 December 2008? When did Lithuania send the report of that public hearing to Belarus?

(v) Lithuania informed the Committee that the final decision for Visaginas nuclear power plant of 21 April 2009 was the decision on the feasibility of the construction. According to which legislative provisions is the Ministry of Environment the competent authority to decide on the proposed activity? Has the Government or the Parliament taken another decision after the decision on the feasibility of the construction? Can you explain why the seismic evaluation was performed after the final decision?

(vi) Could you provide updated information regarding the activities of the special working group established by the Lithuanian Government and the political decision on the new NPP project in Lithuania?

You are kindly requested to provide the information to the secretariat by no later than 20 November 2013, for the Committee to consider at its next session.

Yours sincerely,



Vesna Kolar Planinšič  
Chair, Implementation Committee,  
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment  
in a Transboundary Context