UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

The Executive Secretary

Under-Secretary-General

Ref.: ECE/EHLM/283/2010/L

Geneva, 1 September 2010

Dear Ambassador,

I have been requested by the Government of Armenia to facilitate a notification under the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). Armenia is offering the possibility for all neighbouring States, irrespective of whether they are party to the Convention, to comment on an important proposed activity in Armenia: a new nuclear power plant on the Armenia Nuclear Power Plant Site near Metsamor Town, Armavir Marz.

As your country is not a Party to the Espoo Convention, your country's participation in this procedure does not imply obligations under the treaty.

The attachments to this letter provide information on the proposed activity, further to article 3, paragraph 2, of the Convention and to decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention. The attachments are also available on a dedicated webpage: http://www.unece.org/env/eia/armenia-npp.htm.

Armenia is inviting your Government to respond to this notification with the following:

(a) An indication of whether or not your Government wishes to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure, further to article 3, paragraph 3, of the Convention;

His Excellency
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(b) Comments on or objections to the proposed activity made by your country's authorities and public, further to article 3, paragraph 8, of the Convention. These comments may also be of help in determining the scope of the subsequent environmental impact assessment, so that it may better respond to your concerns regarding the likely impact on the environment of your country's territory resulting from implementation of the proposed activity.

Your Government's response should be sent to the Secretary to the Espoo Convention, whose contact details are provided in annex, to arrive no later than 15 October 2010. It is particularly important that your response indicate whether or not your Government wishes to participate further in the procedure. A failure to respond by the deadline of 15 October 2010 will be understood to mean that your Government does not wish to participate. Any response received by that date will be forwarded to the Government of Armenia.

It is my understanding that the proponent of the nuclear power plant will then proceed with the development of the full environmental impact assessment documentation. It is also my understanding that the documentation will then be provided to your Government so that it can make the documentation available to its authorities and its public for their comments, in accordance with article 4 of the Espoo Convention.

In order to facilitate our future follow-up on this important matter, it would be appreciated if you could please provide the name and contact details of an official with whom the UNECE secretariat can communicate. You are kindly requested to send this information to the Secretary to the Espoo Convention.

Please accept, Ambassador, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ján Kubiš

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