

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

Ms. Maria do Carmo Figueira, First Vice-Chair  
Telephone: + 351 21 472 82 00  
Fax: +351 21 471 90 74  
E-mail: carmo.figueira@apambiente.pt

Portuguese Environment Agency  
Directorate for Environmental Assessments  
Rua da Murgueira, 9/9A Zambujal, Ap. 7585  
2610-124 Amadora, Portugal

Secretariat: Ms. Elena Santer, UNECE  
Telephone: +41 (0)22 917 2090  
E-mail: Elena.Santer@unece.org, eia.conv@unece.org

Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Ref. Follow-up on decision VI/2 of the Meeting of the Parties  
(EIA/IC/S/4 Ostrovets nuclear power plant)

27 April 2018

Dear Ms. 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) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003) to inform the Government of Lithuania about (a) the Committee's deliberations at its forty-first session (Geneva, 13 - 16 March 2018) concerning the follow-up by Belarus with decision VI/2 (paras. 48-64) regarding the Ostrovets nuclear power plant, and (b) the steps that the Committee agreed to undertake to finalize the revision of draft decision VII/2 (paras. 54-65) before forwarding the draft decision for consideration of the Meeting of the Parties at its 'intermediary' session (Geneva, 5-7 February 2019).

At its forty-first session, the Committee acknowledged the receipt of the annual reports of Belarus and Lithuania for 2017 with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting of the Parties set out in decision VI/2. The Committee also noted the summary of the information on the site selection provided by Belarus on 26 February 2018. It observed that the summary contained no new information.

The Committee also noted that, in its responses to the Committee's questions, the International Atomic Energy Agency had provided references to its relevant safety standards without elaborating how those standards had been applied in the case of the Ostrovets nuclear power plant (Please see Annex I to this letter for a copy of the letter from Agency

Mr. Vitalijus Auglys  
Director of the Pollution Prevention Department  
Ministry of Environment  
Jaksto 4 /9, Vilnius, Lithuania  
E-mail: vitalijus.auglys@am.lt

Cc: beata.silobritiene@am.lt

dated 27.02.2018). The Committee regretted that its questions on technical and scientific issues that were meant to help clarify whether the environmental impact assessment documentation constituted a sufficient substantive basis for Belarus to take its final decision to proceed with the implementation of the activity remained unanswered.

Having exhausted all the avenues for receiving external expert advice and considering the unprecedented circumstances related to the compliance matter, the Committee decided exceptionally to examine the documentation prepared by Belarus under the EIA procedure by itself and, as appropriate, seek the services of scientific experts and other technical advice or consult other relevant sources in accordance with its structure and functions. To this end, the Committee invited its members to complete their evaluation of the environmental impact assessment documentation by 30 June 2018. In addition, the Committee agreed to invite Belarus to provide answers to the Committee's scientific and technical questions.

For the sake of transparency, I am now writing to you to invite the Government of Lithuania to provide its views on the matter with reference to the Committee's scientific and technical questions as annexed to this letter (see annex 2). The Government of Lithuania is also invited to provide an authorization to make its views available for consideration of the technical and scientific experts that the Committee Members might consider consulting in accordance with its structure and functions when assessing the EIA documentation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that at its forty-first session, the Committee reviewed and revised draft decision VII/2 (paras. 54–65) concerning the matter (see draft decision IS/1d). At the request of the Committee, draft MOP decision IS/1d have been forwarded by the secretariat as an informal document for information to the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (see the web-page of the seventh session of the Working Group (Geneva, 28-30 May 2018) following the link <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47337>).

Before transmitting draft decision IS/1d for consideration of the Meeting of the Parties at its intermediary session (Geneva, 5-7 February 2019), the Committee agreed to finalize it at its forty-second session further to the results of its examination of the EIA documentation and the analysis of information to be provided by Belarus and Lithuania.

You are kindly requested to provide the information in English through the secretariat by **25 May 2018**.

Yours sincerely,



Maria do Carmo Figueira  
First Vice-Chair, Implementation Committee,  
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment  
in a Transboundary Context  
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Annex 1. Letter from the International Atomic Energy Agency

Annex 2. List of questions to be considered during a review of the environmental impact assessment documentation related to the Ostrovets nuclear power plant

