



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
WATERS AND FORESTS

STATE SECRETARY'S CABINET

15287/MF/05-03-2015

To: **Mr. Felix ZAHARIA, Chair**

Implementation Committee of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Ref: EIA/IC/INFO/14 Kostolac lignite nuclear power plant

Dear Chair,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 24 December 2014 regarding the planned construction of a lignite power plant in North - East Serbia, by the River Danube, close to the border with Romania (Kostolac lignite power plant).

In that respect, we would like to inform you the following:

Romania was informed by the public concerned (Banckwatch Romania Association) regarding the planned construction of a lignite power plant in North- East Serbia, by the River Danube, close to the border with Romania.

Taking into consideration that the project, as presented by the public, is listed in Annex I, point 2 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context done at Espoo on 25 February 1991, Romania sent in April 2014 an initial request for information to the Serbian authorities, in accordance with article 3 of the Espoo Convention. Since the Serbian authorities did not respond, Romania made several informal demarches on this matter, latest in a correspondence between the Romanian ambassador in Belgrade and the Secretary of State for the Protection of the Environment in the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture and the Protection of the Environment, but to no avail.

The Romanian Ministry of Environment hoped that the requested information would help in determining the likelihood of a significant adverse transboundary impact, especially the cumulative impact. Without information to the contrary and based on in-house expertise, the Ministry has recently concluded that it cannot exclude the likelihood of a significant adverse transboundary impact. For this reason, we have requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania to submit to the Serbian authorities a letter regarding the willingness of the Romania to participate in the environmental assessment procedure for this project.

In this respect, we requested the Serbian Party to submit the Environmental Impact Assessment Study together with annexes and non-technical summaries for consideration. After receipt, the above mentioned documentation will be published on the website of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests for a public consultation of 30 calendar days.

Yours sincerely,

State Secretary

Mihail BACA

