



Bulgarian Atomic Forum – BULATOM

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TO

Ms. Tea Aulavuo

Secretary to the (Espoo) Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment Environment Division

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The Secretariat and the representatives of the Parties, the Committee and the Bureau of the Convention at the Meeting of the Parties on the Implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)

WITH REFERENCE TO: *Official position of the Bulgarian Atomic Forum Association in support of the position of the Republic of Bulgaria on Draft Decision IX/4h on the implementation by Bulgaria of its obligations under the Espoo Convention regarding the extension of the lifetime of Units 5 and 6 of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant*

DEAR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The “Bulgarian Atomic Forum” Association (BulAtom) hereby wishes to express its full and unreserved support for the position of the Republic of Bulgaria on the proposed amendments to the draft decision IX/4h on the fulfilment by Bulgaria of its obligations under the Espoo Convention regarding the extension of the lifetime of Units 5 and 6 of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant.

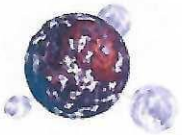
Bulgaria’s national legislation fully transposes European and international environmental law, including the EIA Directive and the EIA Convention in a transboundary context.

The Republic of Bulgaria strictly complies with all its obligations under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), including compliance with all obligations regarding the activities related to the extension of the lifetime of Kozloduy NPP- Units 5 and 6.

BulAtom maintains and strongly supports the position of the Republic of Bulgaria that the continued operation of Units 5 and 6 of Kozloduy NPP does not fall within the scope of a "new activity" or "major modification" within the meaning of the Convention and thus does not have a significant negative transboundary impact.

As direct witnesses and participants in extension the operating licenses of Units 5 and 6 of Kozloduy NPP, we can confirm with certainty that for us all of them have been carried out in full compliance with all applicable requirements of international, European and Bulgarian legislation and are in line with the commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria under the Espoo Convention.

As examples of the compliance of the Republic of Bulgaria's actions on the extension of the operating licenses of Kozloduy NPP Units 5 and 6 with the Espoo Convention, we would like to



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draw the attention to the Implementation Committee of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to the following few important actions by Bulgaria:

1. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure for Kozloduy NPP Units 5 and 6 was already carried out in the 1990s, the assessment in question covered all the facilities at the site and the EIA report was approved by Decision No 28-8/2001 of the Minister of Environment and Water, which is still in force today.
2. Decision No. 6-PR/2014 of the Minister of Environment and Water on the assessment of the need to carry out an EIA for the investment proposal "Extension of the lifetime of Unit 5 and Unit 6 of Kozloduy NPP" concluded that it is not likely to cause significant negative impacts on the environment and human health and therefore it is not necessary to carry out an EIA. The decision was taken on the basis of the positive opinions of all national competent authorities and the public (with regard to risks to human health, nuclear safety and radiation protection, environmental components and factors - air, atmosphere, water, soil, subsoil, landscape, natural sites, mineral diversity, biodiversity, natural and anthropogenic substances and processes; different types of waste and their location; hazardous energy sources: noise, vibration, radiation, and certain genetically modified). This Decision of the Minister of Environment and Water has been confirmed by several chambers of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Republic of Bulgaria.
3. Over the last 15 years, Kozloduy NPP has carried out a number of transboundary EIA procedures for the following projects: Decommissioning of Units 1-4; Construction of a facility for processing and storage of radioactive waste with a high volume-reduction factor; Construction of a national repository for low and intermediate level radioactive waste and construction of a new nuclear unit. In these procedures (some of which are referred to as good practice for the implementation of the Espoo Convention), all environmental and human health impacts have been fully assessed, including the lifetime extension of Kozloduy NPP Units 5 and 6.
4. In full compliance with the 2014 IOC (MOII) Declaration on Activities Related to Electricity Generation from Nuclear Power Plants, approved by the Parties in the implementation of the Convention (document ECE/MP.EIA/20.Add.3 ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/4. Add.3). The Republic of Bulgaria notified Romania by letter dated 13 March 2014 at the earliest stage of the assessment procedure (highlighted as an example of good practice in the application of the Convention).
5. The continued operation of Kozloduy NPP Units 5 and 6 does not require the development of a new technical design for the plant or changes to the existing design. No changes to the main components and process systems are required. There is no need to construct new buildings and facilities or to renovate existing ones. The issue related to the different types of RAW is being addressed in accordance with the current regulations in Bulgaria and EU directives, and in a much better and more reliable way than at the beginning of the operation of Units 5 and 6, as witnessed by the reduced the annual generation of spent fuel. In other words, the extension of the operation of Kozloduy NPP Units 5 and 6 does not lead to additional risks for human health and the environment.
6. Four comprehensive EIAs have been carried out at the Kozloduy NPP site for other activities, all of which have taken into account the cumulative effect of the continued operation of Units 5 and 6.



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In support of the position of the Republic of Bulgaria, we would like to draw the Committee's attention to the findings of the Committee on Petitions to the European Parliament and in particular to its conclusion that the Espoo Convention does not automatically imply the application of the notification procedure and that if the competent national authorities have decided that the proposed activity does not have a significant transboundary effect, there is no need to carry out further activities in relation to the application of the Espoo Convention. According to the decision of the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament, there have been no breaches with regard to the legislative, administrative and other measures taken by the Republic of Bulgaria to implement the provisions of the Convention, in particular for the long-term operation of Units 5 and 6 of the Kozloduy NPP.

In view of all the above, we, the Bulgarian Atomic Forum Association, hereby state our official position before the Committee on the Implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and express our strong support to the proposed amendments by the Republic of Bulgaria to the draft decision IX/4h on Bulgaria's compliance with its obligations under the Convention regarding the extension of the lifetime of Kozloduy NPP Units 5 and 6.

Respectfully:



Dr. Eng. Bogomil Manchev
Chairman of the Management Board of
Bulgarian Atomic Forum Association