

Ms Vesna Kolar Planinsic
Chair of the Espoo Implementation Committee
Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment
Dunajska cesta 22, 1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Cc: Ms Tea Aulavuo
Secretary to the Espoo Convention
UNECE
Palais des Nations
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Switzerland

Your ref: EIA/IC/INFO/12

Brussels, 28 January 2014

Dear Ms Kolar Planinsic,

this letter is a reply from the Belgian authorities to the letter of the Implementation Committee dated 17 December 2013 inviting Belgium to address the following question: *Could the Government of Belgium confirm that the proposed NPP at Hinkley Point C is not likely to cause significant transboundary environmental impact on the territory of Belgium.*

First the Belgian authorities would like to thank the Implementation Committee for its position that Belgium could be a potentially concerned party in this case.

Besides a notification concerning a proposal of strategic siting assessment criteria for nuclear power plants in the UK, received in August 2008, the Belgian authorities have not received any notification from the UK authorities inviting Belgium to participate in any EIA procedure under the Espoo Convention for this particular NPP. In addition the Belgian authorities have so far not requested the UK authorities to be given the opportunity to participate in any EIA procedure under the Espoo Convention for this NPP.

Assumably the most important environmental impact of a NPP of which the likeliness must be assessed is the likeliness of radioactive contamination in normal and abnormal operating conditions. In that respect the Belgian authorities note the general data submitted by the UK to the European Commission, and subsequently to the EU member States, on the proposed Hinkley Point C NPP implementing Commission Recommendation 2010/635/Euratom of 11 October 2010 on the application of article 37 of the Euratom Treaty (Official Journal EU 23.10.2010, L279/36) and the subsequent European Commission's opinions of 3 February 2012 (Official Journal EU 07.02.2012, C33/1) and 30 May 2012 (Official Journal EU 31.05.2012, C154/1).

Considering the general data on the proposed Hinkley Point C NPP submitted by the UK under article 37 Euratom, the subsequent opinions of the European Commission, the distance between the Hinkley site and the Belgian border and unless the Belgian authorities would be furnished with information which would prompt Belgium to change its position, the Belgian authorities are of the opinion that the Hinkley Point C NPP as proposed, could be considered not to be likely to cause significant transboundary environmental impact on the territory of Belgium.

The Belgian authorities hope this information will be useful.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kristof De Cock
Flemish Government

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