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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

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18 January 2011

Dear Mr. Ignashchenko,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991).

At its twentieth session, held in Geneva from 11 to 13 January 2011, the Committee considered your letter and attachments received, on 30 December 2010, in response to the Committee's letter seeking further details on the strategy of the Government of Ukraine to implement the Convention, and on progress with the elaboration of bilateral agreements.

The Committee asked that I write to you to thank you for your letter and the report. Nonetheless, the Committee was concerned that the implementation of the strategy might be a lengthy procedure, with the revised dates for implementation extending to February 2012. The Committee therefore requested additional information:

- (a) The latest version of the strategy, with the revisions incorporated;
- (b) Information on progress with adopting the planned decree on public participation, as the Committee considered it important that Ukraine provide a legal framework for public participation in environmental impact assessment in general, not limited to the transboundary context, as this was necessary to satisfy the requirements of the Convention (art. 3, para. 8, and art. 4, para. 2);

.../...

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- (c) Information on the screening mechanism for determining a likely significant adverse transboundary impact (art. 3, para. 1);
- (d) Clarification of the appendix to the draft decree on the list of activities and objects with increased ecological hazard, as the criteria set out in the appendix appear inconsistent with the list itself.

The Committee kindly requests a response to its questions and requests above, by 28 February 2011. The Committee might have further questions and requests.

The Committee also decided to remind the Government of Ukraine that it would be important for it to submit information at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties on steps taken by Ukraine to bring it into compliance with the Convention, in particular concrete legal steps already taken including the entry into force of legislation, and to provide a clear indication of when the strategy would be implemented in full.

The Committee also recalled that the Government of Ukraine had been requested by the Meeting of the Parties to report to it on progress with the elaboration of bilateral agreements or other arrangements.

Finally, I wish to inform you that the Committee urged the Government of Romania to reconsider its opposition to the negotiation of a bilateral agreement with Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,

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Matthias Sauer

Chair, Implementation Committee,

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment

in a Transboundary Context