

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

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Ref. Follow-up on decision VI/2 of the Meeting of the Parties  
(EIA/IC/S/1 Bystroe Canal Project)

16 December 2015

Dear Mr Tarasenko,

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).

At its thirty-fourth session, held in Geneva from 8 to 10 December 2015, the Committee followed up on decision VI/2 of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Convention. The Committee considered the report by the Government of Ukraine of 13 November 2015 regarding the follow-up to decision VI/2 (paras. 15–28).

I would like to draw your attention to two of the issues considered by the Committee in respect of its follow up on decision VI/2. The Committee welcomed the development of a new draft law on environmental impact assessment, but considered that there was no certainty about the final draft and it would therefore be too early to proceed with the review of that legislation. The Committee also expressed its concerns at the lack of information on behalf of Ukraine with respect to the steps taken to bring the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta (the Bystroe Canal Project) into full compliance with the Convention (as detailed in decision V/4, para. 19). The Committee concluded that Ukraine had not provided adequate reports as required by decision VI/2 (for details on the Committee's consideration, see the report ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2015/4, to be shortly available on the Convention's web site at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40290#/>).

At the request of the Committee, I am now writing to invite your Government to be represented at the next (thirty-fifth) session of the Committee to be held in Geneva, Palais des Nations, from 15 to 17 March 2016. The discussion will provide an opportunity to Ukraine to better engage with the Committee and enable the Committee in its current composition to better evaluate the steps undertaken by the Government of Ukraine to bring about compliance, following the MOP recommendations.

.../...

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The Committee will consider the matter first in a closed session, on 15 March in the morning. The discussion with the delegation of Ukraine is scheduled to take place **on 15 March, starting at 3pm** and expected to be concluded by 6pm. At the beginning of the discussion, the delegation of Ukraine will be invited to make a brief presentation (not exceeding 20 minutes) on the progress it has achieved with the MOP recommendations. The Committee will then ask questions to Ukraine to collect information and make its evaluation on compliance. To facilitate discussion, Ukraine should expect to receive questions from the Committee in advance of the session. Ukraine should be prepared to discuss its response.

To enable the secretariat to make all necessary arrangement for your access to the Palais des Nations, you are kindly invited to provide the secretariat with a confirmation of your country's participation and the composition of your delegation well in advance of the session and no later than **29 February 2016**.

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of your country's obligations under decision VI/2 and urge you to take all necessary action to implement the conditions set in that decision as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Felix Zaharia  
Chair, Implementation Committee,  
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment  
in a Transboundary Context  
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment