



Environmental Pillar
Working for a sustainable future

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8th November 2017

Ms Elena Santer,
Secretary to the Implementation Committee of the Espoo Convention
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

By email: Elena.Santer@unece.org; eia.conv@unece.org

Subject: EIA/IC/CI/5
Urgent : Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant, United Kingdom

**in the context of correspondence between the Chair of the Committee and the UK, and
the request for a UK response to the committee prior to Nov 15th 2017**

Dear Ms. Santer,

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Pillar – which is an umbrella organisation of some 26 national environmental Non-Government Organisations in Ireland who work together to advocate on environmental matters. We would be grateful if you would bring the attached letter and annexes to the URGENT attention of the Implementation Committee for the Espoo Convention, with the associated correspondence.

We note in the Committee's September report¹, paragraph 41 states that the Committee: *"requested the Chair to write to the United Kingdom to ask it to inform the Committee by 15 November 2017 about the outcomes of the consultations with the interested Parties and how these outcomes were addressed by the United Kingdom."* We would hope that our letter would be considered in relation to any such proposed enquires and correspondence, and in the committee's deliberations on the UK's response.

¹http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2017/IC_39/IC_39_Report__unedited_advance_copy27.09.2017.pdf

Environmental Pillar members: An Taisce. Bat Conservation Ireland, BirdWatch Ireland. CELT - Centre for Ecological Living and Training. Coast Watch. Coomhola Salmon Trust. ECO UNESCO. Feasta. Forest Friends. Friends of the Earth. Global Action Plan Ireland, Gluaiseacht. Good Energies Alliance Ireland, Green Economy Foundation. Green Foundation Ireland. Hedge Laying Association of Ireland. Irish Doctors Environment Association. Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Irish Seed Saver Association. Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. Irish Wildlife Trust. Native Woodland Trust. The Organic Centre. Sonairte. Sustainable Ireland Cooperative. VOICE. Zero Waste Alliance Ireland



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In summary, our attached letter to the Committee sets out our concerns following the effective **exclusion of the Irish public from the recent consultation initiated by the UK Government on Hinkley Point C on July 28th of this year**. The letter explains how we only learned indirectly of this consultation and within days of it concluding. We understand this consultation was in response to the Committee's findings and recommendations regarding the non-compliance by the UK in respect of Hinkley Point C. The committee's recommendations, which we welcomed and applauded, recommended *inter alia* that the UK write to parties to determine if they wished to be notified. This consultation then arose consequent on the request by certain countries, including Ireland to be notified and consulted, even at this late stage.

Should you wish to clarify any of the above or attached – please do not hesitate to contact me, or my colleague Ms Attracta Uí Bhroin.

I would be most grateful if you could provide an update to us confirming the committee has been provided with the letter and any suggestions or considerations arising relevant to us, as appropriate.

You will appreciate the urgency of this. We had hoped to hear back from the UK Government in respect of our request to facilitate consultation with the Irish public and an extension to their recent consultation, but we have not. So in light of the upcoming correspondence referred to, and in the lead up to the meeting of the Committee in December – we thought best to update the Committee now and escalate the issue for their attention.

Kind regards

Michael Ewing, Coordinator of the Environmental Pillar.

The Environmental Pillar is an advocacy coalition of 26 national environmental NGOs in Ireland, and a national Social Partner.

Enclosures:

Letter to Espoo Implementation Committee and Annexes I-VI

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