



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

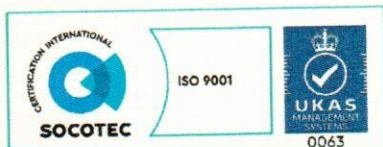
99-00-537
05 September 2023, Sofia

Subject: Notification under the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context of the Project on “Increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources by completing the works and ensuring permanent monitoring of the environmental impact of the hydropower development of the Olt river on Cornetu Avrig sector”, Romania

Dear Minister FECHET,

Hereby, I would like to confirm the receipt of your letter Ref. № DGEICPSC/2220, 3448, 3764 dated 6 April 2023 and your letter from 4 August 2023 (received by e-mail only) with attached Notification under Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (the Espoo Convention) for Project on “Increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources by completing the works and ensuring permanent monitoring of the environmental impact of the hydropower development of the Olt river on Cornetu Avrig sector”, Romania.

H.E. Mircea FECHET
Minister of Environment,
Waters and Forests of Romania
12 Libertatii Blvd.,
Sector 5, Bucharest, Romania



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We would like to express our gratitude for your notification under the Espoo Convention of the above project and we highly appreciate the re-sending the notification and the extended deadline for expressing our official statement on Bulgaria's participation in the EIA transboundary procedure for it until September 5th, 2023.

After careful consideration of the provided information in the notification of the project and consultations with the competent authorities in our country, it was found that the project envisages the construction of a large dam, installing 14 MW of power generation capacity on the Olt River, a major tributary of the Danube river on Romanian territory. The construction of such a facility will have an impact on the natural outflow of the Danube River and the state of the transboundary water body 'Danube' shared by Bulgaria and Romania.

The forthcoming EIA of the proposed project should investigate and assess the impact of the regulation of the Olt River flow, as a result of the construction and operation of the hydraulic engineering facility, on the Danube River flow. Low water levels on the Danube during certain months of the year pose a serious problem for navigation on this major European river route.

There is a need to clarify the impact on surface and groundwater, on the Olt and Danube sediments, including the level of the Danube, and to assess the cumulative effect on surface and groundwater, to consider implementation alternatives and to consider measures to reduce the impact on surface and groundwater and water-related ecosystems, including the risk of pollution in emergency situations.

It is also necessary to provide data for appropriate measures to reduce negative environmental impacts in the Danube catchment, respectively on the status of the transboundary water body 'Danube' shared by Bulgaria and Romania, and coordination with the provisions of the Danube River Basin Management Plan.

On the ground of the above and in accordance with Article 3 of the Espoo Convention, I would like to inform you that we express the willingness of the Republic Bulgaria to participate in the EIA procedure in a transboundary context for the Project on



“Increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewable sources by completing the works and ensuring permanent monitoring of the environmental impact of the hydropower development of the Olt River on Cornetu Avrig sector”, Romania.

Please accept, dear Mr. Minister, the assurance of my highest consideration and readiness for successful cooperation.

Sincerely,

Julian Popov

Minister of Environment and Water