



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE**

Athens, 15 October 2010

Ref.Nr. Y.P.E.K.A./S.E.S. oik.: 131330

**To: Republic of Bulgaria
Ministry of Environment
& Water**

Subject: Notification of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to the project : Burgas Alexandroupolis Crude Oil Pipeline and associated facilities-Preliminary Impact Assessment Study of the Greek Section

Dear Madam,

we are sending the present letter in order to notify you that a file for a Preliminary Impact Assessment Study concerning an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the Burgas Alexandroupolis Crude Oil Pipeline and associated facilities (Greek Section) has been submitted to the Hellenic Ministry for Environment Energy & Climate Change. The proponent of the project is the international company Trans-Balkan Pipeline B.V. (TBP) with local department both in the Republic of Bulgaria and Greece.

The project concerns the construction of a new crude oil pipeline with the associated facilities (block valves, tankfarm, harbour facilities and tanker loading facilities) from Burgas on the Black Sea coast in Bulgaria to Alexandroupolis on the Mediterranean coast in Greece (BAP project). The

purpose of the BAP project is to carry crude oil produced in Russia and the Northern Caspian region to destinations in the European Union, North America and other international markets.

According, also, to the Equator Principles, this pipeline project is treated as a Category A Project and falls into the provisions of Element 8 Annex I of the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Besides, it falls into the provisions of the 85/337/EEC Directive, as it has been amended by the 97/11/EC Directive, and, specifically, under Element 16 Annex I of the Directive.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Hellenic Law, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will take place for the pipeline project. Both Greece and the Republic of Bulgaria have signed and ratified the UNECE Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Furthermore, both countries have harmonised their internal Law with the 85/337/EEC Directive, as it has been amended by the 97/11/EC Directive.

For all the above mentioned reasons, we are sending you the present Notification letter in recognition of your interest towards international cooperation in the field of Environmental Protection, especially in the Balkan area.

Hereby you may find attached a non-technical summary, which includes a brief project description, project maps, and preliminary information on potential environmental impacts combined with suitable mitigation measures, as well as additional related information.

It would be very important for us to know whether your country would be interested in participating in the EIA process and in entering in bilateral consultations with Greece about this specific project.

Furthermore, we would like to encourage you to inform us of any particularly sensitive environmental or social issues that might be affected in the region and should be taken into account.

We would appreciate if you could let us know the contact details of the authority or person in charge for such matters. We would also like to know if you consider necessary to provide specific local data and arrange a contact point for the competent environmental authorities.

In any case, a positive or negative response will be required from you (whether or not you would like to participate in the EIA process and the relevant consultations) within four (4) weeks upon receipt of this letter.

We will be looking forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

THE HELLENIC MINISTER FOR
THE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE



K. BIRBILI

ATTACHMENTS:

A file containing relevant material in the English and Bulgarian language including a non-technical summary, relevant maps for the project from TBP Trans-Balkan Pipeline, as well as information about the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in Greece