



**Embassy of Romania  
in the Republic of Serbia**

УПРАВА ЗА ЗАЈЕДНИЧКЕ ПОСРЕДНИЧКЕ ОРГАНИ  
ПР: 11111  
ПРИМЉЕНО 09 APR 2015  
Определено: Д. Р. Р. Р.  
277 17 337-00-123

No. 528

The Embassy of Romania to the Republic of Serbia presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Directorate for Protocol, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, and has the honour to convey, in attachment, the letter addressed by H.E. Mrs. Gratiela Leocadia Gavrilescu, Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania, to H.E. Mrs. Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković, Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, regarding Romania's request to be notified by the Serbian side, in accordance with article 3 of the *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)*, on the construction of a new production unit (Block 3) within the thermoelectric plant Kostolac B and the expansion of lignite pit at Drmno, both projects located in the vicinity of the border with Romania.

The Embassy would appreciate a swift answer of the esteemed Ministry to the request of the Romanian authorities.

The Embassy of Romania in Belgrade avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Directorate for Protocol, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia the assurances of its highest consideration.

*Belgrade, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015*



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
DIRECTORATE FOR PROTOCOL**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
WATERS AND FORESTS

Nr. 1369/G-19  
Data 26.02.2015

Cabinet of the Minister

To: Ms. Snežana Bogosavljević BOŠKOVIĆ, Minister

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, Republic of Serbia

Ref: planned construction of a new lignite power plant at Kostolac and the expansion of lignite pit at Drmno, both projects being located in north-eastern Serbia, by the River Danube, close to the border with Romania.

Dear Ms. Minister,

First, we want to reaffirm Romania's appreciation and desire to continue good relations with Serbia, especially on transboundary cooperation plans and programs, in which special attention was paid to environmental issues in the interest of both countries.

At the same time, please note that Romania is informed of the intention of Serbia to start the projects of building a new production unit of 350 MW at the power plant based on lignite Kostolac B and the expansion of lignite pit at Drmno, both projects located in the north-eastern Serbia, by the River Danube, close to the border with Romania.

Since these types of projects are listed in Annex I, paragraph 2 and 14, respectively, of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context adopted in Espoo on 25 February 1991, and taking into consideration a possible significant adverse transboundary environmental impact, Romania wishes to be notified by Serbia, in accordance with article 3 of the Espoo Convention, in relation to these projects.

On this occasion, I express my willingness to continue the fruitful cooperation and please accept, Ms. Minister, the assurance of my highest consideration.

MINISTER

Grația Leocadia GAVRILESCU



Република Србија  
МИНИСТАРСТВО ПОЉОПРИВРЕДЕ  
И ЗАШТИТЕ ЖИВОТНЕ СРЕДИНЕ

Број: 337-00-00123/2015-17  
Датум: 19.05.2014.године  
Немањина 22-26

*[Handwritten signature]*

29 MAY 2015

МИНИСТАРСТВО СПОЉНИХ ПОСЛОВА  
Кабинет Министра

Кнеза Милоша 24-26  
11 000 Београд

Предмет: Обавештење у вези са вербалном нотом бр. 528 достављене од стране Министра животне средине, вода и шума Румуније, Mrs.Gratieli Leocadia Gavrilescu, посредством Амбасаде Румуније у Републици Србији

Веза: Допис број 337-00-123/2015-17 од 09.04.2015.године

Поштовани,

Министарство пољопривреде и заштите животне средине Републике Србије, је припремило Одговор на допис достављен од стране Министарства животне средине, вода и шума Румуније, посредством Амбасаде Румуније у Републици Србији – бр. 528 од 01.04.2015. године, на српском и енглеском језику, а везано за планирану изградњу новог термо блока у Костолцу и проширење површинског копа Дрмно, у складу са обавезама које произлазе из Еспоо конвенције - The Law on Ratification of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context („Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia“, No. 102 /07).

Молимо да Министру животне средине, вода и шума Румуније, Mrs.Gratieli Leocadia Gavrilescu доставите писмо Министра пољопривреде и заштите животне средине Републике Србије, Проф. др Снежане Богосављевић-Бошковић.

Обрадила: мр Сабина Ивановић *[Signature]*

Сагласан: Александар Весић  
Помоћник министра *[Signature]*

Сагласна: мр Стана Божовић  
Државни секретар *[Signature]*

Доставити:  
-Наслову  
-Архиви

*[Handwritten signature]*

ДРЖАВНИ СЕКРЕТАР

По решењу о овлашћењу  
бр. 119-01-13/2/2015-09 од 12.01.2015.

Проф. др Зоран Рајић *[Signature]*

Република Србија  
Министарство пољопривреде  
и заштите животне средине  
Немањина 22-26  
11000 Београд  
Србија



Republic of Serbia  
Ministry of Agriculture  
and Environmental Protection  
22-26, Nemanjina Str.  
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Број/№: 337-00-123/2015-17  
Датум/Date: 29.April 2015.

From: The Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection,  
Cabinet of the Minister

To: Mrs. Gratiela Leocadia Gavrilescu, Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests,  
Romania

Ref. Response to the letter addressed by H.E. Mrs. Gratiela Leocadia Gavrilescu, Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania, conveyed through the Embassy of Romania in the Republic of Serbia – No. 528 dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, concerning the planned construction of a new lignite power plant block in Kostolac and the expansion of lignite pit at Drmno,

Dear Madam Minister,

I welcome the expressed desire and determination on your part to continue good neighbourly relations and transboundary cooperation plans and programs in the field of environmental protection in the interest of both countries.

Hereby we would like to confirm that a location around the existing thermal power plant Kostolac is planned for construction of the new block B3 of 350 MW, which is in accordance with the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia and the Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia by 2025, with projections of the impact on environment by 2030. The new thermal block is planned to be built on the right bank of river Danube at a distance of 5 km, and 19 km air distance from the Romanian border.

It is envisaged that the thermal power plant (TPP) will use coal-lignite of 7.240 kJ/kg energy value, from the existing pit Drmno and that its annual consumption would be 3.300.000 tons. The project construction activities have not started because the process of obtaining relevant permits and approvals has not been finished yet.

In the period between October 2013 and December 2013 the competent authority conducted an environmental impact assessment procedure for the concerned project, which included:

- a decision on defining the scope and content of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study (17<sup>th</sup> May 2013)

- a decision on approval for the Environmental Impact Assessment Study (30<sup>th</sup> December 2013)

We particularly emphasize that the expansion of the lignite pit Drmno was not included in the above mentioned EIA Study for the construction of thermal block B3. The expansion of the lignite pit Drmno is a separate project requiring permit and approval procedures to be conducted in accordance with appropriate regulations, separately from the concerned project which refers solely to the construction of thermal block B3.

During the procedure all competent authorities and the public received relevant information through the media and website of the competent authority. The public and relevant stakeholders delivered their comments either during public consultation or in writing. The representatives of local government and non-governmental organizations were particularly active, and received feedback on the process of decision-making regarding the approval of the Study and acceptance of comments that were later incorporated into a revised Study.

The Republic of Serbia, which ratified the Espoo Convention, did not apply provisions of that Convention in case of the concerned project. Thermal power plant projects are included in the Annex to the Convention, but in this case we are not talking about constructing a new thermal power plant with all accompanying technical-technological segments constituting one whole, but of installing a new block within the existing thermal power plant Kostolac B whose blocks have been operating since 1987 and 1991.

The concerned plant design matches contemporary standards of environmental protection, the LCP and IE Directives, as well as:

IPPC – Best Available Techniques Reference Document (BREF) for Large Combustion Plants, July 2006;

IPPC – BREF for Energy Efficiency, February 2009;

IPPC – BREF for General Principles of Monitoring, July 2003;

This will all contribute to raising the efficiency of the existing power plant, which includes the reduction of air, water and soil pollution. The EIA procedure was completed in accordance with the national law through the adoption of a Decision on approval for the EIA Study for the construction of Block B3 within TPP “Kostolac B”, at the end of December 2013.

After reviewing the documentation and publishing the Decision, NGO filed an appeal to the Administrative Court based on a claim of incomplete implementation of procedure and non-compliance with provisions of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, i.e. claiming that the competent authority had not informed the neighboring countries in this case Romania, where a transboundary impact of the project could take place, during the decision-making process.

The proceedings before the Administrative Court of the Republic of Serbia is in progress. In accordance with the decision made by the Administrative Court, the authority in charge of the EIA procedure will repeat the EIA procedure (or certain part of it depending on the nature of the Administrative Court’s decision) and will send to you, in line with Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) a notification for the project of constructing thermal block B3 in Kostolac while

fully adhering to the time frame provided for in the national legislation and the Espoo Convention.

All the above mentioned information were communicated to the Espoo Convention Implementation Committee.

Sincerely,

  
MINISTER  
*Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković*  
Snežana Bogosavljević Bošković, PhD

[WWW.CIINS.RS](http://WWW.CIINS.RS)