

**Minutes of  
the Belarus-Austrian Bilateral Consultations  
according Art. 5 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a  
Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), regarding the Environmental Impact  
Assessment (EIA) Procedure for a new construction of a Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in  
Belarus**

1. The consultations were held at the Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environmental Agency) in Vienna on May 10, 2010.

The Belarus delegation comprised representatives of the Ministry of Energy, the State Enterprise "Directorate for Nuclear Power Plant Construction", the Belnapienergoprom, the State Enterprise "Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Hygiene", the Republican Unitary Enterprise for Research and Development "Institute for Radiology", Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Central Scientific Research Institute of Comprehensive Water Resources Utilization" and of the Belarusian embassy in Vienna.

The Austrian delegation comprised representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, representatives of the provinces of Vienna, Upper Austria and Burgenland as well as consultants.

The list of participants is attached to the present minutes.

The delegations agreed to hold consultations in English with consecutive translation from/into Russian as needed.

The consultations were held according to the attached agenda.

2. Austria has asked for notification according Article 3 Espoo Convention on August 23, 2008 since significant environmental effects on Austria's territory cannot be excluded. Hence, Belarus notified Austria the construction of the nuclear power plant on August 27, 2009.

The Austrian public had the possibility to comment the relevant documents – notification, preliminary environmental report including a summary - from December 14, 2009 until January 25, 2010. The comments received and an Expert Statement with questions were sent to Belarus on February 9, 2010.

In the accompanying letter Austria asked for consultations according Article 5 Espoo Convention and for a public hearing according Article 2 para 6 Espoo Convention. Belarus accepted the invitation to attend the consultations on May 10, 2009 and the public hearing on May 11, 2010 in Vienna with its letter from March 19, 2010.

3. During the consultations the following topics were addressed based on the Expert Statement and on the assessment of the Belarusian replies to the questions posed in the Austrian Expert Statement on the Preliminary Environmental Report.

1. Selection of the NPP type,
2. Description of project,
3. Project targets and design limits.

The questions relating to the above mentioned topics were forwarded by the Austrian delegation in advance. The Belarusian delegation answered the questions raised by the Austrian delegation.

Due to time constraints some questions relating to “project targets and design limits” as well as to “accident analyses” could not be discussed in detail. Belarus agreed to answer the remaining questions in written form. Austria announced to send a final statement based on an overall assessment. Belarus agreed to send the final EIA Report.

4. According Article 6 para 1 Espoo Convention Austria requested Belarus to take the results of the consultations, submitted comments of the public and expert statements including the final statement, and the results of the public hearing into account. In addition, Austria asked, referring to Article 6 para 2 Espoo Convention, Belarus to submit the final decision on the NPP Belarus along with reasons and considerations on which it was based.

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The Minutes of the Bilateral Consultation were prepared by Austria in English.