Republic of Bulgaria

Ministry of Environment and Water

Minister

ОВОС-840
05 April 2012

Subject: *Notification of an investment proposal "Modernization of the railway line "Radomir - Gyueshevo"*

Dear Mr. Ademi,

Pursuant to Article 3 from the *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Convention in a transboundary context*, you can find enclosed a completed standard notification form in English (approved with resolution I/4 from the First meeting of the parties to the Convention) concerning the continuation of the project "Construction and Reconstruction of railway line – Corridor VIII – Eastern Part" **on Bulgarian territory – *"Modernization of railway line Radomir – Gyueshevo"***. Please, keep in mind that the deadline for sending a reply for the notification is four (4) weeks, starting from the date it has been received.

Yours sincerely,

Nona Karadjova

To
Abdilaqim Ademi
Minister
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
Republic of Macedonia

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FORMAT FOR NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 3 OF THE ECE CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT

NOTIFICATION TO AN AFFECTED PARTY OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY UNDER ARTICLE 3 OF THE CONVENTION

1. INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY	
(i) Information on the nature of the proposed activity	
Type of activity proposed	Modernization (construction, rehabilitation and operation of railway track and structures, electrification, signaling and telecommunications) railway line between Radomir and Gyueshevo.
Is the proposed activity listed in Appendix I to the Convention?	YES
Scope of proposed activity (e.g. main activity and any/all peripheral activities requiring assessment)	Construction-assembly works for the construction of railway track and structures, catenary, implementation of systems for telecommunications and signalling for the construction of Radomir – Gyueshevo railway line. Construction of temporary access roads to the site. Implementation of earth works for the construction of the subgrade.
Scale of proposed activity (e.g. size, production capacity, etc.)	The railway line is 78 km long, depending on the version that will be preferred. The design speeds are 130-160 km/h for passenger trains, up to 200 km/h for tilting trains and up to 120 km/h for freight trains.
Description of proposed activity (e.g. technology used)	Activities during the construction will include earthworks that will prepare the subgrade, installation of a rail-and-sleeper grid, ballasting, installation of catenary poles and contact conductor, construction of drainage system and

	lying of cable for signalling system.
Description of purpose of proposed activity	With the modernization of the railway line Radomir - Gyueshevo greater ride comfort will be achieved, the travel time will be reduced and the safety of passengers and cargo will be improved.
Rationale for proposed activity (e.g. socio-economic, physical geographic basis)	From an economic perspective, by constructing the modernized railway line Radomir-Gyueshevo, as part of the Trans-European Network, a better access to the EU countries will be achieved and thus the mobility of people and goods will be improved which will contribute to the development of Single European Market and sustainable mobility. Corridor VIII is also a multimodal transport system, which passes through the East-West axle, consisting of sea and river ports, multimodal ports, roads and railway lines.
Additional information/comments	
(ii) Information on the spatial and temporal boundaries of the proposed activity	
Location	The project "Modernization of the railway line Radomir - Gyueshevo" will be implemented on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria and falls within two administrative areas - Pernik and Kyustendil.
Description of the location (e.g. physical-geographic, socio-economic characteristics)	The railway line is constructed in the South-West part of the country, with typical mountain relief, cut by few river valleys, the largest of which is Struma. The mountains alternate by cauldrons, which are separated between each other from hardly passable gorges. The railway track passes through more populated areas like Radomir and Kustendil.
Rationale for location of proposed activity(e.g. socio-economic, physical-geographic basis)	The railway line is part of the Trans-European Transport Corridor VIII and TINA network. The changes from the existing scope is necessary in order to avoid to a maximum the protected areas and terrains, landslide areas and steep mountain sides. The chosen railway track will allow the construction of a convenient and accessible

	infrastructure, connecting the bigger towns and villages in the area, as well as ensuring opportunity for faster connection between Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Macedonia, and from there a connection with the Adriatic-Yonion sea region towards Turkey for transit of goods and passengers.
Time-frame for proposed activity (e.g. start and duration of construction and operation)	Preparation phase: 2014 - 2 г. Technical design start: 2014 duration: 2 years EIA start: 2014 duration: 1 year Land expropriation start: 2015 duration: 5 years Construction start: 2017 duration: 6 years Term of use /operation/: unlimited
Maps and other pictorial documents connected with the information on the proposed activity	Please find attached maps of the different scope options of the investment intention - 1.
(iii) Information on expected environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures	
Scope of assessment (e.g. consideration of: cumulative impacts, evaluation of alternatives, sustainable development issues, impact of peripheral activities, etc.)	The investment intention falls within the scope of p.22, letter "a" from Appendix 1 of the Law on Environment Protection and in accordance with article 93, p.1 from the Law on Environment Protection, a determination for the need of Environment Influence Assessment (EIA) is complied. With Legal Opinion № 04-00-671 and № EIA-840/15.04.2010 the Ministry of Environment and Waters has estimated the necessity of implementing an EIA. In accordance with article 31 from the Biological Diversity Act, the same is liable to assessment of compatibility with the subject and the purposes of conservation of the protective areas.
Expected environmental impacts of proposed activity(e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)	During the implementation of the investment intention the following impacts are expected: - Air pollution as a result of the increased emissions of

	harmful substances, fine dust particles etc. from the operation of heavy construction equipment. During the exploitation, air pollution is expected mainly from the traffic. - Negative impact on the surface and groundwater as a result of the implementation of the construction works. - An impact on the geological base, the soil and the relief, as a result of the earthworks and the construction of a new railway track. - The impact on the flora and fauna is reflected in a loss and fragmentation of habitats, removal and destruction of vegetation. - Generating construction waste, hazardous waste from the work of the mechanization and earth masses as a result of the earthworks. - A noise pollution is expected during the construction-assembly works. During the operation of the railway line, the noise levels will be within the defined norms.
Inputs(e.g. raw material, power sources, etc.)	During the implementation of the investment intention will be used materials, supplied as commodity products from the market. The water will be necessary for ensuring the needs of the workers. The necessary electric energy is also mainly for ensuring the needs of the workers at the site.
Outputs(e.g. amounts and types of: emissions into the atmosphere, discharges into the water system, solid waste)	The forecast of the expected harmful impact on the environment will be considered during the development of the EIA.
Transboundary impacts (e.g. types, locations, magnitudes)	During the construction and operation of the investment intention transboundary impacts are not expected.
Proposed mitigation measures (e.g. if known, mitigation measures to prevent, eliminate, minimize, compensate for environmental effects)	In EIA report a Plan for implementation of the envisaged measures for prevention and decreasing of the negative impact on the environment and the human health will be developed for each of the stages of implementation of the

Decision-making authority if different than authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the EIA - Name, address, telephone and fax numbers	

3. INFORMATION ON THE EIA PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY IS LOCATED	
(i) Information on the EIA process that will be applied to the proposed activity	
Time schedule	The indicative time period for conduct of EIA activities is 9-12 months and is indicatively envisaged to be completed by the end of 1st quarter of 2015
Opportunities for the affected Party or Parties to be involved in the EIA process	In the event of decision for need of EIA for proposal with potential transboundary impact the Minister of Environment and Water shall notify the affected party or parties about his/her decision, and shall specify a period of time for reply whether the respective (affected) party shall take part in the procedure. In the event of negative reply on behalf of the affected party, the procedure further on shall follow the order set forth in the Bulgarian legal framework. In the event of positive reply on behalf of the affected party and statement of its desire to take part in the procedure, further on the order of the EIA procedure shall be modified and adjusted in consideration of the transboundary aspects. The affected population shall be notify for the starting of **EIA procedure in a transboundary context**
Opportunities for the affected Party or Parties to review and comment on the notification and the EIA documentation	In the event of positive reply on behalf of the affected party and statement of its desire to take part in the procedure, **EIA procedure in a transboundary context shall provide the following** steps: - Consultations between the two parties on: provision of information about the major requirements of the legislation; the time for

	consultations shall be determined, etc.; - Determination of the scope of information which the investor should include in the EIA report; - Elaboration of EIA report. The investor shall be obliged to submit to the competent authority an additional copy of the report, translation of the whole report or part thereof, where that has been agreed between the competent authorities of the two parties, as well as translation of the non-technical summary. - Providing an opportunity to the competent authority of the affected party for holding consultations on: potential transboundary impacts and measures for prevention or limitation of the impact; possible proposed alternatives to the investment proposal; other issues of mutual interest. - Public consultations **on the EIA report with opportunity for direct participation of representative of the competent authority of the affected party and its public** - **The minister of** Environment and Water - Republic of Bulgaria is t**aking decision on EIA with consideration of the notes and proposals made by the affected party, which takes part in the EIA procedure.** - Announcement of the EIA decision and notification of the decision to the affected party. - Control over implementation of the decision. Where explicit preliminary agreement exists, the competent authority of the party of origin shall notify the competent authority of the affected party about the implemented measures for

	control and the conclusions made.
Nature and timing of the possible decision	The expected time period for receipt of EIA Decision from Ministry of Environment and Water is end of 2nd quarter of 2015.
Process for approval of the proposed activity	Ministry of Environment and Water – Republic of Bulgaria is the competent authority to issue the EIA decision. The following steps shall be followed as per requirements of the Bulgarian legal framework: - Submission of EIA Report to the Ministry; - Quality assessment of EIA Report by the Ministry - Public consultations in the affected municipalities; - Issuance of final decision by the Ministry.
Additional information/comments	

4. INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	
Public participation procedures	The EIA Report shall be announced to the general public in all municipalities that are affected by the implementation of the project. Along with that announcement, there will be an announcement of the date, place and hour when the public consultation on the Report shall take place. All willing parties will have the opportunity to examine the Report and provide their written opinions. Minutes shall be prepared during the conduct of the public consultation which will be attached to the EIA Report.
Expected start and duration of public consultation	Indicatively, 9 months following the start of work on the EIA. Length - 3 months.
Additional information/comments	

5. DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE	
Date	30 days