



EMBASSY OF GREECE
SOFIA

**MOST URGENT
DEADLINE: 30/10/2023**

Ref. No.1319

VERBAL NOTE

The Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Sofia presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria / SE Europe Directorate and, in reference to the former's Verbal Note Ref. No.04-14-115/16.10.23 has the honour to present the following as response of Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic:

1. The updated strategy of the neighboring country for the management of spent of nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in its territory, could potentially cause significant environmental impacts within the Greek territory.

2. For this reason, Greece intends to participate in the cross-border assessment of environmental impacts of the draft updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, in the context of Article 7 of Directive 2001/42/EC.

3. For the participation of Greece in the assessment of cross-border environmental impacts of the plan, it is deemed necessary to forward to the competent Authorities of Greece, a Strategic Environmental Impact Study that meets the requirements of the Directive 2001/42/EC. To carry out consultations with the public and the competent Authorities to be consulted, the above- mentioned Study is kindly requested to be formulated in the Greek language.

4. To effectively assess the cross-border environmental impact of the project, the aforementioned Strategic Environmental Impact Study should include clear, documented (quantitatively if possible) and presented on appropriate maps, description of the spent nuclear fuel and management activities of radioactive waste that may affect the environment in Greek territory, as well as detailed assessment of these effects.

5. It should be pointed out that in the letter of the Minister of Environment and Water of Bulgaria, the reference to Article 10 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Protocol of the Espoo Treaty, is not relevant since the aforementioned Protocol has not been ratified by the Greek side.

6. Greece will be able to present the views of the Authorities and the public concerned within forty days after receiving the above information from the Bulgarian side.

The Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Sofia avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria / SE Europe Directorate the assurances of its highest consideration.



Sofia, 30 October, 2023

To Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria/
SE Europe Directorate

Cc Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
State Protocol Department

IN TOWN