



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
PHYSICAL PLANNING



Republic of Macedonia
Ministry of environment
and physical planning

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Our Number : 11-860/2

Date: 31.01.2018

TO: Mr. Neno Dimov, Minister
Ministry of Environment and Water
bld. Maria Luisa No. 22, Sofia
Republic of Bulgaria

SUBJECT: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study on
the project for construction of railway section 3: Kriva
Palanka-border with the Republic of Bulgaria, as part of
Corridor VIII

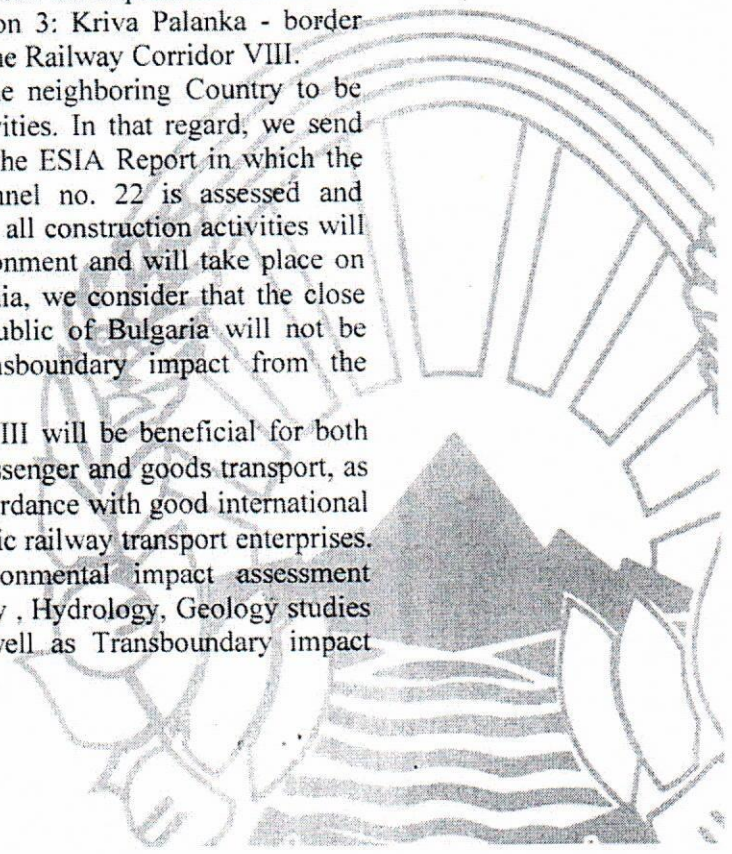
Reference: Your letter No. 04-00-1504 from 21.12.2017

Dear Mr. Dimov,

We would like to let you know that we have received your letter in which you are looking for additional information regarding the potential trans-boundary impacts that might arise from the implementation of the Project for construction of railway section 3: Kriva Palanka - border with the Republic of Bulgaria, as part of the Railway Corridor VIII.

We appreciate the need the public of the neighboring Country to be informed on time about the Project activities. In that regard, we send you, in addition, the specific chapter of the ESIA Report in which the main transboundary impact of the Tunnel no. 22 is assessed and presented. Taking in to consideration that all construction activities will not have significant impact on the environment and will take place on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, we consider that the close surrounding of the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria will not be affected by a significant adverse transboundary impact from the construction of the Border tunnel.

The operation of the railway Corridor VIII will be beneficial for both countries, and the possible impacts of passenger and goods transport, as well as incidents will be managed in accordance with good international practices by both countries, i.e. their public railway transport enterprises. We believe that the submitted environmental impact assessment documentation (Non-Technical Summary, Hydrology, Geology studies and Methodology of construction as well as Transboundary impact





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chapter) provide complete and sufficient information about the potential transboundary impacts that could be expected from the construction of the Project, including the part of the border tunnel. Thus, the obligation of Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context-Espoo Convention is fulfilled and your requests have been fully responded to.

With regards to our friendly cooperation and communication, which is stated in the Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Macedonia and the Republic of Bulgaria for linking the railway networks of the two countries, ratified by Law by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia on March 12, 1999 and published in the "Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" no. 32/1999, we would like to point out the fact that this current Project is of great benefit for the both countries and we will be a constructive partner during the implementation of the procedure for construction of the part of the Railway Corridor VIII on Bulgarian side.

In the hope of a future fruitful cooperation between the Ministries of Environment of our countries, we expect to finalize our communication within the Espoo Convention and continue with the further implementation of this important Project.

Yours sincerely,

MINISTER
Sadulla Duraki

