



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

04-00-1504

04. April 2018

To Your outgoing No 11-860/2/31.01.2018

**Subject:** *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure in a cross-border context for the project "Construction of section 3 of the railway corridor VIII Kriva Palanka - border with the Republic of Bulgaria"*

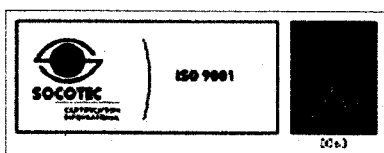
**YOUR EXCELLENCY,**

*With the following letter, I acknowledge the receipt of the documentation (No 11-860/2/31.01.2018) of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Macedonia, which provides us with a non-technical summary of the EIA report "Cross-border Impacts" and other engineering project studies for border tunnel No 22 for the part of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. It is planned to be build a single electrified railway on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia in the section of Kriva Palanka next to the border with the Republic of Bulgaria, which is part of Corridor VIII, connecting the Adriatic with the Black Sea.*

*It is clear from the non-technical summary that the impact on the environment from the construction and operation of the railway has been mainly examined only in its part on Macedonian territory. Further information is provided regarding the possible cross-border effect from the construction of the tunnel in its part on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. All construction, transportation and storage of building materials, rock masses and construction waste will be carried out on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia. According to the documentation during construction no significant negative impact is expected on the factors of the environment and the living environment (atmospheric air, ground and surface waters, soils, noise, vibrations) and there will not be a risk to the health of the population on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.*

*Consultations with the relevant competent authority for water management has shown that the investment proposal in its part for tunnel № 22 on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is acceptable to the relevant river basin management plan and flood risk management plan for the relevant basin management area for 2016-2021.*

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*The documentation does not consider the impact of the project in the affected border region of the country and in the nearest settlement - Gyueshevo village (which will be subject to an EIA procedure of the Republic of Bulgaria). Given this, as well as due to the analysis according to which is not expected to have a significant cross-border negative impact from the construction of the tunnel on Macedonian territory, which implies that from a health-hygienic point of view no risk to the health of the population is expected, there is no need for further participation of the country in the EIA procedure, including a public discussion of the report in the border region of the Republic of Bulgaria.*

*I avail myself of the opportunity to express my highest consideration and preparedness for fruitfulness cooperation.*

*Sincerely Yours,*

*Neno Dimov  
Minister of Environment and Water*