



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Ministry of Environment and Water

0A-00-1504
05, October 2017

Subject: *Investment proposal "Construction of section 3 of rail corridor VII: Kriva Palanka-Border with the Republic of Bulgaria"*

Dear Mr Duraki,

I would like to refer to your letter № 11-2504/3/01.08.2017 received through the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia to Sofia, notifying us about the Investment proposal "Construction of section 3 of rail corridor VII: Kriva Palanka-Border with the Republic of Bulgaria". I would like to inform you as follows:

After considering the information in the Notification of the Investment proposal "Construction of section 3 of rail corridor VII: Kriva Palanka-Border with the Republic of Bulgaria" it was found that the subject of the proposal is construction of single electrified railway on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia in the section from Kriva Palanka to the border with the Republic of Bulgaria, which is part of one of the Pan-European corridors, connecting the Adriatic Sea and the Black Sea (Corridor VIII). The railway through common tunnel № 22 close to border checkpoint Deve Bair passes over the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria to the village of Gyueshevo. Tunnel № 22 (from km 87+280 to km 89+560) is part of the proposed base and the proposed alternative route of section 3, with a length of 23.4 and 19.9 km respectively. It is envisaged that 64 trains per day with a speed of up to 100-160 km/h will pass the railway. In the documentation there is no clarity for the method of construction of the tunnel. After the consultations made the interested institutions in the Republic of Bulgaria expressed their position that implementation of the investment proposal regarding the activities on construction of the common border tunnel (tunnel № 22) may have an impact on the following groundwater bodies in West Aegean Region of River Basin Management: Porous-Fissured groundwater in Osogovo Paleogenic volcano-sedimentary complex with unique code BG4G00001Pg039 and Fissured groundwater in Vlahina-Ograzhden-Maleshevo-Osogovo metamorphic rocks with unique code BG4G001PtPz125.

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In relation to the participation of the Republic of Bulgaria in the EIA procedure in a transboundary context it was pointed out that it is necessary only regarding the construction of the common border tunnel and the territory directly adjacent to it on which the construction and operation of the tunnel may have an impact.

Based on the above and in compliance with Article 3 of the Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context I would like to notify you that we express the willingness of the Republic of Bulgaria to participate in the EIA procedure in a transboundary context for the above proposal.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my highest consideration and my willingness for fruitful cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Neno Dimov
Minister of Environment and Water

