

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT
PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Défense, de la Coopération et du Commerce extérieur
Représentation permanente du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
auprès de l'Union européenne
75 avenue de Cortenbergh, B-1000 Bruxelles

Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Ref: Development by North Macedonia of a gold copper mine (EIA/IC/INFO/36)

27 May 2026

Dear Mr. Koumanov,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003).

At its sixty-fifth session, held in Geneva from 12 to 15 May 2026, the Committee continued its consideration of the information it had gathered further to the information of 19 July 2023 from the Bulgarian NGO "Balkanka Association" concerning the development by North Macedonia of a new gold-copper mine, close to the border with Bulgaria and Greece.

The Committee recalled that, at its sixty-fourth session, it had agreed to terminate its consideration of the matter at the current session unless substantial new information was submitted (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2026/2, para. 113). The Committee examined information provided by North Macedonia and the NGO on 24 April and 27 March, respectively, in response to its letter of 26 March 2026.

In light of the information provided, the Committee concluded that there was no new substantial information: planned mining operations were not expected to begin in the near future, no decision had been taken to authorize or undertake said activity further to article 2 (3) of the Convention, and potentially affected Parties had not been notified.

It also noted the assurance by North Macedonia that, should the project proceed, the competent authorities would implement the Convention in full, and would keep the Committee informed of any further developments concerning the court proceedings, the status of the concessions and potential EIA procedures.

Mr. Dimiter Koumanov
Member of the board
Balkanka Association
26 Chelopesko Shose Street
PO Box 1839
Sofia

At the request of the Committee, I am writing to inform the Balkanka Association that the Committee therefore agreed to discontinue its consideration of the matter.

The Committee further requests your agreement that the correspondence between the Committee and the Balkanka Association in the course of the Committee's deliberations on the matter be placed on the Convention's website as an illustration of the Committee's approach to its consideration of information received from other sources. In the absence of any objections by **15 June 2026**, the secretariat will proceed to post all relevant correspondence on the website, as instructed by the Committee.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation for your consideration and cooperation, and takes this opportunity to acknowledge its constructive engagement with the Balkanka Association.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Joe Ducombe'.

Joe Ducombe
Chair of the Implementation Committee