

MINISTRY OF ENERGY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Ms. Dorina MOCANU General Director National point of contact to the Espoo Convention of Romania

General Directorate for Impact Assessment and Pollution Control

Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests

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This letter is sent electronically only

Subject: Response to the consultation request concerning the Corvinus Project

Dear Ms Mocanu,

The Hungarian Party acknowledges with appreciation the consultation request and Romania's expression of interest to participate in the procedure under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, done at Espoo (Finland) on 25 February 1991 (Espoo Convention), concerning the Corvinus Project, as outlined in your letter received 31 March 2025 (Ref. No. DGEICPSC/126696/28.03.2025).

According to information provided by the competent environmental authority, the Békés County Government Office, the project underwent an environmental permitting procedure, including a screening process, prior to the commissioning of the currently operating seven hydrocarbon wells. We wish to inform you that this permitting procedure has already been concluded with a final decision issued by the authority in December 2024.

As part of the permitting process, the authority assessed the potential for significant adverse transboundary environmental impacts based on the documentation submitted with the application. The assessment concluded that the operation of the proposed activity is not expected to cause such effects; therefore, no obligation for notification under the Espoo Convention was imposed.

As the Convention's procedural requirements apply only in the context of ongoing environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedures, and given that no such procedure is currently underway, there is, at present, no operative framework through which the Convention's obligations can formally apply.

Nevertheless, Hungary takes note of Romania's concerns regarding potential transboundary environmental impacts, as outlined in the aforementioned letter. In this regard, and in line with Article 3(7) of the Convention, Hungary reaffirms its commitment to addressing such concerns in a transparent and cooperative manner. Hungary remains fully committed to the principles and provisions of the Espoo Convention and will ensure that potential transboundary effects are duly considered in any future proceedings.

Should a new environmental permit application be submitted for activities related to or similar in nature to the current project, Hungary will inform the Romanian Party without delay in accordance with Article 3(1) of the Convention. Upon receiving such notification, if Romania confirms its status as a potentially affected Party, Hungary will ensure Romania's participation in the procedure pursuant to the provisions of Article 3(5) of the Convention.

We also confirm that the competent environmental authority has been duly informed of this obligation.

The Hungarian Party sincerely values the cooperation of the Romanian Party and remains available for any further dialogue or clarification on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Hungarian focal point to the UNECE Espoo Convention and its Kiev (SEA) Protocol