



MINISTER'S CABINET

No. DGEICPSC/30142/07.07.2026

To: MINISTRY OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In att.: Mr. Csaba LANTOS, Minister of Energy

For info.: Dr. Hunor Orbán, Focal Point for the Espoo Convention

Dear Minister Lantos,

We hereby acknowledge the receipt of Ministry of Energy's letter no. KMF/979/2026-GEM dated 23 June 2026 regarding the notification according to the Espoo Convention in a Transboundary Context for the "*M44 Békéscsaba - Salonta expressway project*".

In accordance with art. 7 para. 3 of the EIA Directive, art. 3 para. 8 of the Espoo Convention and the provisions of the Convention *on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters* (the Aarhus Convention), the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests has made available to the public the documentation provided by the Hungarian Ministry of Energy for the project. During the 30 days public consultation period, which lasted until the 25th of July 2026, no comments have been received.

The documents have also been forwarded to the competent authorities and institutions for analysis.

Taking into consideration the information provided by the Hungarian Party as well as the provisions of art. 3 of the Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of Hungary regarding the establishment of the connection between the Salonta - state border (RO) and Békéscsaba - Méhkerék - state border (H) expressways, of 4 April 2023, we hereby inform you that Romania will not participate in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure for the "M44 Békéscsaba - Salonta expressway project".

We would like to mention that, in the preamble to the two documents attached to the Hungarian notification, reference is made to the border between the two States that *are to become members of the Schengen Area, so that they no longer represent a physical obstacle to the movement of persons and goods between Hungary and Romania, irrespective of their level, frequency or purpose*, which does not correspond to the current reality, since Romania has become a full Member State of the Schengen Area since 1 January 2025.

Following Romania's full accession to the Schengen area (lifting internal land border controls as of 1 January 2025), the Romania-Hungary border has become an internal Schengen area border zone where systematic checks on persons are no longer carried out. As a consequence, the construction of a new classical border crossing point (with border control infrastructure) in the Salonta area is most likely no longer justified. As such, we inform you that the developer of the Romanian section is analysing the optimisation of the Arad-Oradea Express Road project by abandoning/reconfiguring the Border Inspection Point, maintaining the Link Road with Hungary as a simple cross-border road link at express road level, without border control facilities.

Please accept, Mr. Minister, the expression of my high consideration and esteem.

Diana-Anda BUZOIANU
Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests

