



16.4.2021

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition No 0784/2019 by P.P. (Bulgarian), on behalf of a group of Bulgarian and Romanian citizens and NGOs, on safety concerns regarding a repository for radioactive waste in Bulgaria**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioners raise safety concerns regarding the construction of the National Repository for Low- and Intermediate-Level Radioactive Waste in Radiana, Bulgaria, very close to the Danube River and the border with Romania. They argue that the construction will contaminate underground waters with radioactive waste (RAW), some of which has a half-life of several hundred thousand and even several tens of millions of years. The petitioners highlight legal issues with the environmental impact assessment and claim that the quantity of RAW to be deposited at Radiana will far exceed the estimates of the current project. They allege breaches of the Aarhus and Espoo Conventions and call for a halt of funding for this project.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 21 January 2020. Information requested from Commission under Rule 227(6).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 16 April 2021

#### The petition

The petitioners express concerns as regards the construction of a national disposal facility for low and intermediate level radioactive waste in Bulgaria on the site of Kozloduy nuclear power plant (NPP).

The Committee on Petitions discussed this petition on 19 February 2020 in the presence of a representative of the petitioners and decided to close the petition. The petitioners requested

review of this decision and provided additional information. The Commission is asked to provide its observations based on the information given orally during the Committee on Petitions meeting.

### The Commission's observations

According to the publicly available information, the national court has upheld the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) decision regarding the national deposit and has extensively examined all the arguments, presented by the petitioner (judgement in case 1343 of November 2018)<sup>1</sup> and concluded that they were not substantiated. The Commission has no reason to doubt the conclusions made by the national supreme administrative court.

In addition, pursuant to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom Treaty), and based on the general data provided by a Member State relating to any plan for the disposal of radioactive waste, in September 2017, the Commission issued an opinion concluding that the plan for the disposal of radioactive waste from the Radiana National Disposal Facility is not liable to result in a radioactive contamination of the water, soil or airspace of another Member State.

Before adopting its opinion, and pursuant to Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission has consulted the group of scientific experts, designated to help the respective decision-making concerning radioactivity. As provided for in the Euratom Treaty, this group consists of independent radiation protection and public health experts and the Commission has no reason to doubt their expertise in assessing such projects either.

In April 2020, the petitioners provide documents which appeared to be taken out of their context. It should be noted that the excerpts of documents provided do not give grounds to suspect a possible breach of EU environmental law.

### Conclusion

The additional information sent by the petitioner does not provide any pertinent information or data to change the Commission's original view that there is no reason to follow up on the issue further.

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.sac.government.bg/court22.nsf/d6397429a99ee2afc225661e00383a86/3d0d6ab67b9d4c84c22583450045a295?OpenDocument>