Strasbourg, 04 November 2026 **T-PVS/Files(2026)2016/05_Gov**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

_____

Standing Committee
46th meeting
Strasbourg, 7-11 December 2026

_____

Open file: 2016/05

Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river including hydro-power plant development and Vlora International Airport (Albania)

- GOVERNMENT REPORT -

Document prepared by the Government of the Republic of Albania

Progress Report of the Government of the Republic of Albania
Complaint No. 2016/05 - Albania: Presumed negative impact of developments on the Vjosa river, including hydropower plant and Vlora International Airport
Implementation of Recommendation No. 219 (2023)

Abstract

This report is submitted in response to the Bureau's letter of 15 July 2026 concerning Complaint No. 2016/05 and the implementation of Recommendation No. 219 (2023). Albania reiterates its commitment to the objectives of the Bern Convention and to continued constructive cooperation with the Secretariat, the Bureau, the European Commission, civil society and scientific institutions. The report clarifies the current legal and procedural context of the Emerald Network in Albania, noting that the historical Vjosa-Narta Candidate Emerald Site does not correspond to a single protected area under the current national legal framework, but overlaps with different conservation instruments, including the Vjosa Wild River National Park and the Pishë Poro-Nartë Protected Landscape. Without prejudice to this clarification, Albania acknowledges the ecological importance of the area and the need for environmental assessment of projects likely to have significant effects on habitats, species and conservation values. Albania will undertake a comprehensive review of the proposed Emerald Network, including updated Standard Data Forms and revised cartographic information. The report also provides updated information on the Vlora International Airport and the proposed Zvërnec development. The latter remains a preliminary proposal and is subject to an in-depth Environmental Impact Assessment, with activities suspended pending completion of the legally required assessment, consultation and decision-making procedures. The competent authorities will require the assessment of cumulative impacts, including interactions with existing and planned developments in the wider Vjosa-Narta area. Albania remains open to dialogue on the feasibility, scope and timing of a possible on-the-spot appraisal and will continue to strengthen cooperation with civil society organisations, including EcoAlbania and PPNEA.

1. Introduction

In response to the Bureau's letter of 15 July 2026 concerning Complaint No. 2016/05 and the implementation of Recommendation No. 219 (2023), the Government of the Republic of Albania wishes to provide the following information and clarifications regarding the matters raised by the Bureau, based on the current legal, institutional and factual circumstances.

The Government of Albania expresses its sincere appreciation to the Secretariat of the Bern Convention and to the Bureau of the Standing Committee for the continued constructive dialogue and cooperation regarding the implementation of Recommendation No. 219 (2023). Albania remains firmly committed to the objectives and principles of the Bern Convention and to fulfilling the obligations arising therefrom, while continuing to strengthen biodiversity conservation through its national legal and institutional framework.

2. Legal and procedural context of the Emerald Network

Before addressing the specific issues referred to in the Bureau's letter, Albania considers it important to clarify the legal and procedural context of the Emerald Network process as it applies to the country. The identification of potential Emerald Network sites in Albania was carried out primarily during the period 2002-2008, based on the scientific knowledge, legal framework and institutional arrangements existing at that time. Following those assessments, several areas were proposed as Candidate Emerald Sites. However, the Emerald Network constitution process for Albania has not yet been completed and none of the proposed sites have been formally adopted by the Standing Committee as Emerald Network sites. Consequently, the relevant areas remain at the stage of proposed Candidate Emerald Sites and have not acquired the status of officially adopted Emerald Network sites under the Bern Convention.

During the two decades that have elapsed since those initial assessments, Albania has undertaken significant legal, institutional and scientific reforms in the field of biodiversity conservation. These include the introduction of the Hunting Moratorium in 2014 and the Forest Moratorium in 2016, the establishment of the National Agency of Protected Areas in 2015, the adoption of Law No. 81/2017 "On Protected Areas", the establishment of the Vjosa Wild River National Park in 2023, and the designation in 2025 of the Vjosa Valley as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve under the Man and the Biosphere Programme. In parallel, Albania has initiated the process for the inclusion of the Vjosa protected area system in the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. Scientific knowledge concerning habitats, protected species, ecological connectivity and conservation priorities has also advanced substantially.

These developments have transformed Albania's protected area system compared with the situation that existed when the proposed Emerald inventories were originally prepared. Albania will therefore undertake a comprehensive review of the proposed Emerald Network, including the reassessment of existing Candidate Emerald Sites, the preparation of updated Standard Data Forms and the development of revised cartographic information, in accordance with the standards and requirements of the Bern Convention. This review will ensure that the proposed Emerald Network reflects the current legal framework, updated scientific knowledge and the present protected area system.

3. Vjosa-Narta, Pishë Poro-Nartë and environmental assessment

References to the proposed "Vjosa-Narta Candidate Emerald Site" should not be interpreted as corresponding to a single existing protected area under the current Albanian legal framework. Today, the territory concerned is managed through different protected area designations established under distinct legal acts and conservation objectives, including the Vjosa Wild River National Park and the Pishë Poro-Nartë Protected Landscape. These are separate legal conservation instruments within the national protected area system and cannot be considered equivalent to the historical boundaries of the proposed Candidate Emerald Site.

Without prejudice to this legal and procedural clarification, Albania acknowledges the ecological importance of the area and the need to ensure that projects likely to have significant effects on habitats, species or conservation values are subject to appropriate environmental assessment, including cumulative impact assessment where relevant.

Albania fully recognizes the importance of updating the Standard Data Forms and welcomes the support offered by the Secretariat of the Bern Convention in this regard. The competent

national authorities have already initiated the broader process related to Natura 2000 preparation, including updated assessments of habitats and species. Albania looks forward to continuing cooperation with the Secretariat during the preparation of the updated Standard Data Forms and, where appropriate, in relation to biodiversity-related aspects of environmental assessment.

4. Vlora International Airport

With regard to the Vlora International Airport, Albania wishes to reiterate that the project is located outside the boundaries of the "Pishë Poro-Nartë" Protected Landscape, as designated by Council of Ministers Decision No. 596 of 25 September 2024, and therefore does not fall within any protected area designated under the current national protected areas system. The project underwent the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure in accordance with the applicable national legislation and received Environmental Declaration No. AN281120210002 of 6 December 2021, issued by the National Environment Agency.

Albania takes note of the concerns expressed by the Bureau and the Standing Committee regarding potential effects in the wider Vjosa-Narta area. The competent authorities will continue to consider the relevant conservation values of the area in accordance with the applicable national legal framework and Albania's obligations under the Bern Convention.

5. Proposed development on Zvërnec

Regarding the proposed development on Zvërnec, Albania wishes to clarify that the project remains at the stage of a preliminary development proposal. Following the preliminary screening procedure, the Ministry of Environment and the National Environment Agency determined, in accordance with the applicable national legislation, that the proposed project must undergo the in-depth Environmental Impact Assessment procedure. Accordingly, all activities within the proposed project area remain suspended pending completion of the in-depth EIA procedure, including all legally required assessment, consultation and decision-making processes.

Pursuant to Council of Ministers Decision No. 686 of 29 July 2015, the developer is legally responsible for preparing the in-depth Environmental Impact Assessment Report, organizing the public hearing and submitting the final in-depth Environmental Impact Assessment Report, together with a summary of the public consultation process, to the Ministry of Environment. Public consultation is a mandatory component of the in-depth EIA procedure. Upon submission of the required documentation, the Ministry of Environment and the National Environment Agency will review the documentation and carry out the assessment in accordance with the procedures prescribed by national legislation, prior to the issuance of any Environmental Declaration.

Albania confirms that, within the in-depth EIA procedure for the proposed Zvërnec development, the competent authorities will require the assessment of cumulative impacts, including, where relevant, interactions with existing and planned developments in the wider Vjosa-Narta area, such as the Vlora International Airport. This assessment will address potential effects on habitats, species, ecological connectivity, protected areas and areas of conservation importance.

6. Permits and procedural steps

The current status of the main projects referred to in the Bureau's letter is summarized below:

Project	Current status	Permit / decision	Procedure undertaken	Pending steps
Vlora International Airport	Outside the Pishë Poro-Nartë Protected Landscape under the current national designation.	Environmental Declaration No. AN281120210002, dated 6 December 2021.	Environmental Impact Assessment procedure under national legislation.	Implementation and monitoring of the applicable environmental requirements and mitigation measures, where relevant.
Zvërnec tourism proposal	Preliminary development proposal only. Activities remain suspended pending completion of the in-depth EIA procedure.	No final Environmental Declaration has been issued at this stage.	Preliminary screening completed; in-depth EIA required.	In-depth EIA, public hearing, submission of the final EIA report, review by the Ministry of Environment and the National Environment Agency, and final decision-making.

7. Cartographic information and Annex I

A map showing the current national protected areas and the historical boundaries of the proposed Vjosa–Narta candidate Emerald site is submitted as Annex I to this report. Regarding the proposed Zvërnec development project, the competent authorities have requested an in-depth Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which has not yet been submitted. Consequently, the precise project location and boundaries cannot be provided at this stage. Once the complete application and accompanying EIA documentation are received, the relevant information, including the precise project location, will be transmitted to the Bern Convention Secretariat without delay.

8. Possible on-the-spot appraisal and cooperation with civil society

Albania takes note of the Bureau's reference to a possible on-the-spot appraisal. The competent authorities remain open to continued dialogue with the Secretariat on the feasibility, scope and timing of such a visit, taking into account the ongoing national procedures and the need to ensure that any visit is useful, well-prepared and technically focused.

Albania also takes note of the Standing Committee's call for strengthened cooperation with civil society organisations, including EcoAlbania and PPNEA. The Ministry remains committed to ensuring meaningful opportunities for participation in consultation processes and to maintaining constructive dialogue with civil society, scientific institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

9. Conclusion

The Government of Albania reiterates its commitment to the effective implementation of the Bern Convention and to the fulfilment of the obligations arising therefrom. Albania will continue the process of updating the Emerald Network documentation, including Standard Data Forms and cartographic information, and will ensure that ongoing and future environmental assessment procedures take into account the conservation values of the Vjosa-Narta area, cumulative impacts and the relevant obligations under the Bern Convention.

Albania remains committed to active engagement with the Secretariat of the Bern Convention, the Bureau of the Standing Committee, the European Commission, civil society organisations and scientific institutions, while further strengthening biodiversity conservation and environmental governance in the country.

Update for the Standing Committee Meeting
October 2026

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DIRECTORATE FOR THE REVIEW AND MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS AND EIA

Ref. No. AN050520260103

Tirana, 15.05.2026

Commission

DECISION

ON DETAILED/IN DEPTH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Pursuant to Law No. 10 440, dated 07.07.2011, "On Environmental Impact Assessment", as amended, and Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 686, dated 29.07.2015, "On the approval of the rules, responsibilities and deadlines for the development of the procedure for the transfer of the Environmental Decision and Environmental Declaration", as amended, following completion of the preliminary EIA procedure, the National Environment Agency (NEA) decided that this project shall be subject to the **Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure**, for the developer with the following details:

Legal Entity: "ZVERNEC SOUTH ADRIATIC DEVELOPMENT" SH.P.K

NUIS/NIPT No.: M42013024Q

Registered Office: Bajram Curri Boulevard, European Trade Center, 12th Floor, Tirana
Responsible Person: Isida Cela

Project to be developed: "Zvërnec Peninsula – Multifunctional Complex, Residential, Services, Hospitality, Recreation, Marina, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 storeys"

Location: Zvërnec, Municipality of Vlorë

Technical Data

Total land area: **2,658,150 m²**

Land area used for development: **2,658,150 m²**

Land area occupied by structures (building footprint): **531,630 m²**

Total construction area: **1,700,000 m²**

Above-ground construction area: **1,063,260 m²**

Underground construction area: **636,740 m²**

Above-ground construction area for residential use: **770,864 m²**

Above-ground construction area for hospitality use: **292,396 m²**

Site Coverage Ratio (SCR): **20%**

Floor Area Ratio (FAR): **0.4**

Maximum height of structures: **39 m**

Maximum number of above-ground storeys: **8 storeys**

Pursuant to Article 11 of Law No. 10 440, dated 07.07.2011, "On Environmental Impact Assessment", as amended, the following is set out:

1. Main reasons and considerations on which this Decision is based

Pursuant to Law No. 12/2015 "On some amendments to Law No. 10 440", dated 07.07.2011, "On Environmental Impact Assessment", Article 9, "Projects subject to the Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment procedure":

Point 1. The Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment procedure shall apply to:

a) projects listed in Annex I;

b) The activity shall be subject to the Detailed EIA Procedure for the following reasons:

- The project is complex and includes the construction/development of a Master Plan within a very large area, with a total surface area of **2,658,150 m²** and a building footprint of **531,630 m²**.

- Within this project area are located the buffer zone and the first ecological corridor of the sand dunes (forested dunes, coastal dunes and embryonic dunes), which protect the settlement from sea-level rise and environmental threats to development.

- The project extends within a **Protected Area**. The current land use consists of a natural landscape. The proposed area falls within the category of **Protected Water/Landscape**, and is surrounded by areas categorized as Nature.

- The investing entity will implement an integrated project which entails complex environmental impacts.

- The proposed construction area forms part of a **Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)** and an **Important Bird Area (IBA)**, within the KBA/IBA area of the Bay of Vlorë, Karaburun and Mount Çika.

- The waters surrounding the bay contain habitats of high ecological value and are vital for the globally most endangered marine mammal, the Mediterranean monk seal. The coastline around Sazan is characterized by extensive underwater Posidonia meadows, which are essential for biodiversity and climate.

- Sazan Island is surrounded by the Marine National Park, designated by Decision of the Council of Ministers dated 28 April 2010, and classified as a National Park (**IUCN Category II**). Furthermore, this Marine Protected Area has been designated as a **Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)** under the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention.

- Within the territory of the Marine National Park, two types of natural habitats, four important floristic species and three species belonging to the Bern Convention have been identified. Faunal species included in the IUCN List have also been identified, including: two Critically Endangered species, one Endangered species, one Vulnerable species, six Least Concern species, one Data Deficient species and four other species.

- The area forms part of a protected ecosystem.

- Presence of migratory birds and rare biodiversity.

Cumulative impacts of tourism developments.

Risk of pollution of waters and the lagoon.

Historical and cultural value.

Albanian and European legal obligations.

Impact on sustainable tourism.

The NEA considers that the project shall be subject to the **Detailed EIA procedure**.

2. Positions of the Technical Directorates

Directorate of Biodiversity

Based on the documentation accompanying the application and the report, the Directorate of Biodiversity assesses that:

An updated ownership certificate and information on the form of use of the surface area for property No. 262/11, Cadastral Zone 1007 (Cadastral Map Index K-34-123 (3-D-1)) shall be submitted;

Pursuant to point 1, Article 12 of Law No. 57/2020, dated 30.04.2020, "On Forests", the relevant legal requirements and the importance of forest-covered areas shall be addressed;

With reference to the KKTU Decision "On carrying out fencing works and preparatory works related to the construction of access roads within the properties", its subject matter appears to differ from the application submitted under this preliminary EIA procedure; this shall therefore be clarified;

DCM No. 596, dated 25.09.2024, "On the designation of the Pishë Poro–Nartë area as a Protected Water/Landscape (Category V)", shall be taken into consideration, in particular letter (b) of point 3 thereof, concerning habitat fragmentation;

It shall be demonstrated how the legal requirements of Law No. 81/2017 "On Protected Areas", as amended, will be complied with;

With regard to the implementation of the provisions of Law No. 9587, dated 20.07.2006, "On Biodiversity Protection", as amended, and Law No. 10006, dated 23.10.2008, "On the Protection and Conservation of Wild Fauna", as amended, and with reference to the preliminary EIA report, which lists threats to habitats (fragmentation) and biodiversity (flora and fauna), strict implementation of the rehabilitation/restoration measures plan described in the report is recommended. Such rehabilitation shall be subject to continuous monitoring by the responsible authority for the protected area in which the activity is proposed to take place;

The reports contain errors in the list of plant species occurring in the area;

The Vlorë Regional Administration for Protected Areas (RAPA Vlorë/AdZM Vlorë) is requested to provide its position regarding the project;

In view of the above, the Directorate of Biodiversity will provide its position again on this EIA once the above-mentioned requirements have been submitted and fulfilled, while at the same time recommending that this application be subject to the **Detailed EIA procedure**.

Directorate of Circular Economy

1. Law No. 57, dated 16.10.2025, “On Integrated Waste Management”, shall be implemented.

2. Waste to be generated shall be specified according to the codes established by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 402, dated 30.06.2021, “On the approval of the Waste Catalogue”.

3. The requirements of DCM No. 418, dated 25.06.2014, “On the separate collection of waste at source”, shall be complied with.

4. The requirements of DCM No. 575, dated 24.06.2015, “On the approval of requirements for the management of inert waste”, shall be implemented.

5. The transfer of non-hazardous waste shall be accompanied by completion of Annex 1 to DCM No. 229, dated 23.04.2014, “On the approval of rules for the transfer of non-hazardous waste and the non-hazardous waste transfer document”, as amended.

6. Hazardous waste shall be delivered in accordance with DCM No. 371, dated 11.06.2014, “On determining the rules for the delivery of hazardous waste and approval of the hazardous waste delivery document”, as amended.

7. Any entity transporting or transferring waste shall hold a **III.2.B licence**, as required by Article 68 of Law No. 57, dated 16.10.2025, “On Integrated Waste Management”.

8. For all packaging waste, DCM No. 177, dated 06.03.2012, “On packaging and packaging waste”, as amended, shall be implemented.

For the activity for which the entity is applying, waste management shall be carried out in accordance with the principle of environmental responsibility and in compliance with DCM No. 418, dated 27.05.2020, “On the approval of the Strategic Policy Document and National Integrated Waste Management Plan 2020–2035”, aiming to reduce the quantity of waste generated and ensure integrated waste management.

Directorate of Climate

Based on the Environmental Impact Assessment report submitted for opinion regarding the activity “Zvërnec Peninsula – Multifunctional Complex, Residential, Services, Hospitality, Recreation, Marina, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Storeys”, located in Vlorë, Application No. AN050520260103, with regard to chemicals management and climate change, the Directorate of Climate provides the following recommendations:

In implementation of the relevant legislation in the field of chemicals management, during the construction phase the following recommendations shall be taken into consideration:

- The entity and its employees shall be familiar with and strictly comply with the measures and recommendations concerning the protection and safety of people and the environment from chemicals used for the purposes of this activity, pursuant to Law No. 27/2016 “On Chemicals Management”;

- Chemicals or products/articles containing chemicals that will be used shall be classified, labelled and packaged and shall be accompanied by chemical safety documentation/material safety data sheets (MSDS), in accordance with the requirements of the legislation in force, including DCM No. 488, dated 29.06.2016, “On the classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals”, and DCM No. 9, dated 09.01.2019, “On detailed rules and methods for carrying out chemical safety assessments, as well as the specific requirements, content and format of the safety data document”;

Chemicals or products/articles containing chemicals that will be used shall be safely stored and managed pursuant to Law No. 27/2016 “On Chemicals Management”.

In implementation of the relevant legislation concerning climate change, it is recommended that:

Environmentally friendly works be carried out and renewable and local materials be used;

Green spaces be created in the surrounding area.

Water Resources Management Agency

In response to your request concerning the preliminary EIA application submitted by applicant “Dritan Bratko”, with project developer “Zvernec South Adriatic Development” sh.p.k., concerning the project:

“Zvërnec Peninsula – Multifunctional Complex, Residential, Services, Hospitality, Recreation, Marina, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Storeys”, located in Zvërnec, Municipality of Vlorë, Application No. AN050520260103, dated 05.05.2026, we clarify as follows:

With reference to:

The coordinates of the property boundary provided in the Technical Report;

The boundaries of water bodies published on the ASIG Geoportal, under the Hydrography layer and Orthophoto 2025;

Based on the above and with reference to the definitions under points 4 and 5 of Chapter III of DCM No. 748/2022 “On determining the area, distance and width of the banks of water resources”, we assess that the boundary of the property proposed for development **does not conflict with the legislation governing water resources**.

National Agency of Protected Areas

Based on the documentation included in the application, the area where the project “Zvërnec Peninsula – Multifunctional Complex, Residential, Services, Hospitality, Recreation, Marina, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Storeys” is proposed to be developed, located in Zvërnec, Vlorë, with developer “Zvërnec South Adriatic Development” and applicant “Dritan Bratko”, Application No. AN050520260103, is situated within the protected area **PMU/T “Pishë Poro–Nartë”**, designated by DCM No. 596, dated 25.09.2024, as a **Protected Water/Landscape (Category V)** of the “Pishë Poro–Nartë” area.

Furthermore, the project area also affects the Natural Monuments **“Limopuo Lagoon”** and **“Mollasic Hills of Zvërnec”**, designated by DCM No. 187, dated 25.03.2021, “On some amendments and additions” to DCM No. 303, dated 10.05.2019, “On the approval of the revised and updated list of Albanian Natural Monuments”.

In view of the above, pursuant to Law No. 81/2017 “On Protected Areas”, as amended by Law No. 21/2024 “On some additions and amendments to Law No. 81/2017 ‘On Protected Areas’”, specifically Articles 17, 20, 26 point 5 and Article 33, as well as DCM No. 596, dated 25.09.2024, **any proposed development must fully comply with the protection status, the applicable legal restrictions and criteria governing protected areas, and the objectives for**

the conservation of biodiversity, the natural landscape and the ecological integrity of the area.

Pursuant to Article 20, point 4:

“Activities that change the use of the territory, such as construction, wastewater treatment on farms, construction of motorways, navigable canals and urban areas, as well as activities similar thereto, shall be permitted only if the entity seeking to carry out the activity has obtained a permit from the National Territorial Council.”

The map is attached hereto.

Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy

Following Application No. AN050520260103 submitted through the electronic permitting system, regarding which you requested an opinion on the Preliminary EIA for the project:

“Zvërnec Peninsula – Multifunctional Complex, Residential, Services, Hospitality, Recreation, Marina, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Storeys”, located in Zvërnec, Municipality of Vlorë, with developer Zvërnec South Adriatic Development sh.p.k., we hereby inform you that:

The assessment at this stage of the project, with reference to the typology and function of the above-mentioned development, falls **outside the scope of responsibility and activity of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy**.

Regional Environment Agency Fier/Vlorë/Gjirokastër

For the purpose of providing its opinion on EIAs, the Fier/Vlorë/Gjirokastër Regional Environment Agency relied on Law No. 10431, dated 09.06.2011, “On Environmental Protection”, as amended; Law No. 10 440, dated 07.07.2011, “On Environmental Impact Assessment”; DCM No. 686, dated 29.07.2015, “On the approval of the rules, responsibilities and deadlines for the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure and the procedure for the transfer of the Environmental Decision and Declaration”; and the environmental legal and sublegal acts in force.

Entity: “Zvërnec South Adriatic Development” SH.P.K. **Activity:** “Zvërnec Peninsula – Multifunctional Complex, Residential, Services, Hospitality, Recreation, Marina, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Storeys” **Location:** Zvërnec, Vlorë.

The project for the construction of the “Zvërnec Peninsula – Multifunctional Complex, Residential, Services, Hospitality, Recreation, Marina, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Storeys” is proposed for development in the Zvërnec area, within the administrative territory of the Municipality of Vlorë.

The project has been conceived as an **integrated tourism development based on the principles of sustainable territorial planning**. It aims to create a functional structure combining tourist accommodation, services, recreational activities and elements of public spaces, while ensuring clear spatial organization and a balanced relationship between development and the natural environment.

The area extends over approximately **265 ha (2.65 million m²)** and includes the development of residential structures, hotel facilities, services and recreational facilities, including the marina and beach areas, as well as supporting technical and public infrastructure.

The project envisages the development of supporting infrastructure, including electricity supply, water supply, wastewater and waste management, as well as improvements to road access.

In particular, the construction of an advanced wastewater treatment plant and the use of efficient resource-management systems are envisaged, with the aim of minimizing environmental impacts.

The development area is characterized by a particular geographical and ecological configuration, extending along a strip of land separating the Adriatic Sea from the Narta Lagoon. This system represents a complex interaction of marine, lagoon and terrestrial ecosystems of high importance for biodiversity and ecological functions.

For this reason, the territory is included within the **"Pishë Poro–Nartë" Protected Landscape**, a protected-area management category requiring strict control of development interventions.

The project area represents a territory with pronounced coastal and wetland characteristics and lies within the **Protected Water/Landscape (Category V)** of the "Pishë Poro–Nartë" complex, pursuant to DCM No. 596, dated 25.09.2024.

This protected status reflects the area's high ecological and landscape importance, as well as the need for sustainable management of natural resources and human activities.

The Narta Lagoon constitutes the aquatic core of the Vjosë–Nartë–Pishë Poro coastal complex, in the north-western sector of Vlorë, between the Vjosa River delta and the Adriatic coastline.

The Narta wetland complex constitutes one of the largest and most important coastal systems in Albania. It includes a large, shallow, brackish water body, as well as a series of lagoons and wetland areas distributed between the Vjosa River delta and the city of Vlorë.

This aquatic system is characterized by a dynamic interaction between marine and freshwater systems, creating favourable conditions for the development of rich lagoon and coastal biodiversity.

For this reason, the territory is included within the "Pishë Poro–Nartë" Protected Landscape, a protected-area management category requiring strict control of development interventions.

Within the study area, the presence of the habitat of **forested dunes with pine trees (dune forests with pines)** has been identified. This habitat plays a key role in stabilizing the dune system and protecting the coast against erosion.

Both during the site-preparation phase and during the construction phase, it is extremely important that the developer protects the soil, water and air environment, due to the environmental importance of the area under consideration as a **Protected Water/Landscape (Category V) of the "Pishë Poro–Nartë" area**.

This shall be achieved through compliance with the environmental legislation in force and the applicable legal and sublegal acts, including DCM No. 575, dated 24.06.2015, "On the approval of requirements for the management of inert waste".

The area is a priority in terms of sustainable coastal tourism development, as well as in terms of the diversity and uniqueness of its natural environment and habitats. Therefore, any intervention in the environment shall be addressed with the highest possible degree of care.

Currently, the project has commenced **construction-preparatory processes**, including clearing, fencing, arrangement and levelling of the area, opening of internal roads and laying of gravel, setting-out/marking, etc.

Recommendations

In order to minimize the risk of pollution, it is essential that the construction site where the Tourist Complex is planned be kept clean at all times and that unauthorized persons be prohibited from entering.

Noise within the working environment, namely the construction site, shall be kept under control in order to prevent negative impacts on the surrounding environment.

Raw materials and other substances presenting a risk of fire or explosion that may be used at the construction site shall be stored in suitable and isolated premises.

Municipal solid waste generated from the packaging of materials to be deposited at the construction site shall be recycled wherever possible. Waste that cannot be recycled shall be deposited at locations designated by the Municipality of Vlorë.

A drainage and stormwater conveyance system shall be constructed around the construction site.

Coastal protection measures shall be implemented, including measures supporting vegetation growth to prevent erosion, the use of natural and artificial barriers, as well as vegetative cover.

No solid or liquid waste shall be discharged into the aquatic or terrestrial environment.

Inert waste shall be reused whenever possible or regularly removed from the construction site and deposited at locations designated by the Municipality of Vlorë, and shall be managed in accordance with the requirements of DCM No. 575, dated 24.06.2015, “On the approval of requirements for the management of inert waste”.

In all cases involving intervention in the soil environment, vegetation and characteristic local plant species shall be preserved, without damaging the natural landscape of the area or the ecosystem and its habitats under study.

During transportation, trucks shall be covered with tarpaulins in order to prevent the dispersal of soil and inert materials onto the roads connecting the area.

Following completion of the construction process, the construction site shall be arranged and rehabilitated and green areas shall be created around the affected area.

A water-quality monitoring programme shall be established, including monitoring of pollution levels and analysis of the chemical composition of surface waters at regular intervals within the lagoon and coastal area.

Furthermore, implementation of the following measures is recommended:

Inert waste generated during implementation of the project (excavated soil) shall be managed in accordance with the legislation in force, in cooperation with local authorities.

Other waste generated during the construction phase requiring disposal/treatment shall be transported and managed only by an authorized contractor holding the relevant permits/licences.

Vehicles transporting excavated soil and other construction materials shall be covered and cleaned before leaving the construction site.

Technical safety measures shall be taken to ensure that works are not carried out during inappropriate hours or above permitted noise levels. Joint Instruction No. 2, dated 15.11.2023, “On limit noise levels for a given environment and for the field of economic and social activities”, and Law No. 9774, dated 12.07.2007, “On the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise”, shall be implemented.

Water generated during the construction phase shall be treated in accordance with Law No. 111/2012 “On Integrated Water Resources Management”. Connection to the area's sewerage system shall be established.

No inert waste of any kind shall be discharged outside the territory of the project site.

Vegetation clearance shall be limited exclusively to the boundaries within which the project will be developed.

The following shall be ensured:

Protection of ecosystems;

Sustainable development and compliance with national and European environmental standards;

Transparency and public consultation;

Definition of preventive and monitoring measures.

Based on the above, you shall apply for the EIA procedure in accordance with the provisions of DCM No. 686, dated 29.07.2015, “On the approval of the rules, responsibilities and deadlines for the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure and the procedure for the transfer of the Environmental Decision and Environmental Declaration”, as amended.

This project shall be subject to the Detailed/In depth Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Marjeta Përlala

National Environment Agency

“Sami Frashëri” Street, No. 4, Tirana

www.akm.gov.al

Tel/Fax: +355 4 2 371 237

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

PROGRESS REPORT

Complaint No. 2016/05 (Open File)

Vjosa–Narta Emerald Candidate Site

Response to the Bureau meeting of 22–24 September 2026

28 October 2026

Progress Report

The Republic of Albania submits this progress report following the Bern Convention Bureau meeting of 22–24 September 2026 and the Secretariat's letter of 28 September 2026 concerning Case-file No. 2016/05 (Open File), relating to developments affecting the Vjosa–Narta area, including Vlora International Airport. It provides updates on environmental assessment procedures, cumulative impacts, developments and potential restoration measures in Zvërnec, the Emerald Standard Data Form (SDF), access to environmental information and cooperation with the Bern Convention Secretariat, including the possibility of an on-the-spot appraisal in 2027.

1. Introduction and Scope

The Vjosa–Narta area hosts habitats and species of European conservation importance and forms part of Albania's Emerald Network. Its conservation, particularly in relation to Vlora International Airport and other developments, remains central to the implementation of Recommendation No. 219 (2023).

In response to the concerns raised by the Bureau in September 2026, this report presents the measures undertaken, the status of relevant environmental procedures and the outstanding issues requiring further technical assessment or documentation. Supporting legal and administrative documents are provided as annexes.

2. Administrative procedures and permits

The administrative and environmental procedures concerning Vlora International Airport and its associated infrastructure have been addressed within the framework of the applicable national legislation and the competences of the responsible authorities.

Regarding the electricity station referred to in the Bureau's observations, the Albanian authorities clarify that electricity supply infrastructure was already envisaged as part of the original Vlora International Airport project. Both the Technical Report (September 2021) and the In-depth Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report (November 2021) explicitly identify an electricity transmission and distribution station among the planned airport infrastructure facilities. Furthermore, the project documentation provides for connection to the existing electricity network serving the Novoselë Administrative Unit, supplied through the 35/10 kV network in Mifol.

Accordingly, electricity supply infrastructure was included in the original project documentation submitted within the environmental assessment procedure. However, the

available documentation does not establish whether the specific installation referred to by the Bureau corresponds to the infrastructure originally envisaged or constitutes a separate development requiring additional administrative or environmental procedures.

3. Application of the Legal Framework, Environmental Assessment and Terms of Reference

Albania's environmental decision-making framework is governed by the legislation on environmental protection, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), biodiversity conservation and protected areas. The competent authorities are required to assess the potential environmental effects of proposed developments in accordance with the applicable national procedures, taking into consideration the conservation objectives of protected areas, habitats and species of conservation concern, as well as potential cumulative impacts. In this context, the assessment of potential effects on the Vjosa–Narta Emerald candidate site is not limited exclusively to activities located within its boundaries, but also encompasses developments that may affect its ecological integrity.

The Albanian authorities take note of the Bureau's concerns regarding the implementation of Recommendation No. 219 (2023), including the requirements relating to Vlora International Airport. The environmental assessment procedure concerning the Zvërnec development is distinct from the airport-related obligations under that Recommendation and should not be considered a substitute for them.

Regarding the Zvërnec development project, Decision No. 05 of 29 April 2026 of the National Council of Territory and Water (KKTU) concerned fencing and preparatory works for the construction of access roads within the relevant property. Subsequently, following the preliminary EIA procedure, the National Environment Agency (NEA), by its Decision of 15 May 2026, determined that the proposed Zvërnec Peninsula multifunctional development must undergo an in-depth EIA. This determination reflects the scale and complexity of the project and the environmental sensitivity of the proposed development area.

With regard to the Bureau's request for the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the in-depth EIA, the Albanian authorities wish to clarify that, under the national EIA framework, the scope, methodology, structure and technical requirements for the assessment are established through the applicable regulatory provisions, complemented by the project-specific requirements identified by the competent environmental authorities.

The **NEA Decision of 15 May 2026 has already been transmitted to the Bern Convention Secretariat and is reattached to the present report for ease of reference**. Importantly, this decision does not merely establish the obligation to undertake an in-depth EIA. It also incorporates the technical observations and requirements of the institutions consulted during the preliminary assessment, including the Ministry of Environment's Directorate of Biodiversity and the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA).

These project-specific considerations address the location of the development within the Pishë Poro–Nartë Protected Landscape, the presence of ecologically sensitive coastal and dune habitats, potential habitat fragmentation, migratory birds and other biodiversity values, cumulative impacts associated with tourism developments, and the need for appropriate environmental protection, rehabilitation and monitoring measures. The decision also identifies the necessity of compliance with the applicable legislation on biodiversity, forests and protected areas.

To further clarify the national procedure, **Council of Ministers Decision (DCM) No. 686 of 29 July 2015, as amended, is also attached to the present submission**. In particular, Chapter II, point 6, establishes the procedure through which the NEA communicates to the developer the issues to be addressed in the in-depth EIA Report, taking into account the requirements of the consulted institutions, the assessment of alternatives, methodological guidance and the prescribed structure of the report. Chapter II, points 8 and 9, regulate the preparation of the draft report, public consultation and subsequent finalisation of the assessment documentation.

Furthermore, Annex II of DCM No. 686/2015 establishes the mandatory content of the in-depth EIA Report. Of particular relevance are point 4.2, concerning biodiversity, habitats, vegetation, fauna and protected areas, and point 5.1, concerning the identification and assessment of environmental impacts, including cumulative effects. The regulatory framework also requires consideration of alternatives, appropriate mitigation measures and environmental monitoring.

Consequently, the NEA Decision of 15 May 2026, containing the project-specific environmental requirements and institutional observations, together with the mandatory provisions of DCM No. 686/2015, constitute, in substance and function, the applicable Terms of Reference guiding the developer in preparing the in-depth EIA Report. Under the Albanian EIA framework, these requirements are established through the relevant legal and administrative instruments rather than necessarily through a separate document formally entitled “Terms of Reference”. The scope and content of the assessment are therefore governed by the applicable national requirements and are not left solely to the developer’s discretion.

In accordance with these requirements, the assessment of cumulative impacts must consider relevant existing and reasonably foreseeable developments within the wider Vjosa–Narta ecological system, including Vlora International Airport and associated infrastructure, insofar as their environmental effects may interact with those of the proposed Zvërnec development. Particular attention should be given to the ecological connectivity of coastal, wetland and terrestrial habitats, the protection of species and habitats of conservation concern, and the assessment of appropriate avoidance, mitigation and monitoring measures.

The Albanian authorities underline that the establishment of these requirements does not prejudge the findings or outcome of the in-depth EIA. The developer remains responsible for preparing the required environmental documentation and complying with the applicable public consultation procedures. The competent authorities will evaluate the submitted documentation in accordance with national legislation before any final environmental decision is taken.

For transparency and completeness, Albania is therefore **reattaching the NEA Decision of 15 May 2026, previously transmitted to the Secretariat, together with DCM No. 686/2015, as amended**, to demonstrate the combined project-specific and regulatory requirements governing the preparation of the in-depth EIA Report.

4. Cumulative impacts and proposed future operation

Regarding the concerns raised about the cumulative environmental impacts of Vlora International Airport and other developments within the wider Vjosa–Narta ecological system, the Albanian authorities recognise the importance of assessing the combined effects of existing, approved and reasonably foreseeable projects, including developments located outside the protected landscape that may affect the ecological integrity of the Emerald candidate site.

Particular attention should be given to the potential interaction of construction and operational pressures, including noise, lighting, land-use changes, habitat fragmentation, hydrological

alterations and disturbance to bird species and other biodiversity values. These effects should be considered in relation to the ecological characteristics and conservation objectives of the wider Vjosa–Narta area.

With regard to future airport operations, the Albanian authorities underline that any applicable environmental assessment obligations, including those relating to cumulative impacts, must be addressed in accordance with the relevant legal requirements. Proposed mitigation, restoration or offsetting measures cannot substitute for the assessment of potentially significant environmental impacts or prejudge the conclusions of the competent environmental authorities.

5. Works in the Zvërnec area and possible restoration

The concerns regarding the environmental effects of interventions undertaken in the Zvërnec area during April–May 2026 are being addressed through the monitoring responsibilities of the National Agency of Protected Areas (NAPA) and its Regional Administration of Protected Areas in Vlorë (RAPA Vlorë), within the framework of the applicable legislation on protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

By Decision No. 05, dated 29 April 2026, the National Council of Territory and Water (KKTU) approved a permit concerning fencing works and preparatory works for the construction of access roads within the relevant property in Zvërnec. In the context of these interventions, NAPA, through RAPA Vlorë, has continued regular field monitoring within the Pishë Poro–Nartë Protected Landscape, with particular attention to the condition of the natural environment in the affected and surrounding areas.

Field observations have identified disturbances associated with preparatory and infrastructure works, including effects on vegetation and elements of natural habitats, as well as potential implications for local fauna and ecological processes. These observations provide an important basis for further technical evaluation of the condition of the affected areas and the identification of appropriate conservation or rehabilitation measures.

Given the ecological importance of the Pishë Poro–Nartë Protected Landscape, the determination of any necessary restoration measures should be based on the nature and extent of the documented disturbances, the ecological characteristics of the affected habitats and, where available, information on their condition prior to the interventions. Depending on the findings of further technical examination, measures may include the removal of construction materials where necessary, rehabilitation of disturbed areas, the use of suitable native plant species and monitoring of habitat recovery and natural regeneration.

The Ministry emphasises that restoration of any documented environmental damage and the assessment of potential impacts from future development are related but distinct matters. The identification of appropriate restoration measures should therefore be supported by field evidence and technical evaluation, while the proposed development remains subject to the applicable in-depth EIA procedure.

6. Emerald Standard Data Form and Spatial Documentation

The concerns regarding the updating of the Standard Data Form (SDF) and the availability of relevant ecological and spatial information for the Vjosa–Narta Emerald candidate site are being addressed in the context of Albania’s ongoing work to strengthen biodiversity data, habitat and species assessments, and the scientific documentation supporting the Emerald and Natura 2000 networks.

The Ministry of Environment, in cooperation with the competent institutions, is working towards the preparation of updated documentation reflecting available information on habitats, species, ecological characteristics and conservation needs. This work requires the consolidation of existing scientific information, relevant field research, monitoring results and spatial datasets, with a view to ensuring that the documentation provides an appropriate scientific basis for conservation planning and environmental assessment.

The Albanian authorities recognise that the ongoing updating of the Emerald Network documentation does not affect the applicability of the relevant obligations under the Bern Convention concerning candidate and adopted Emerald sites. Accordingly, environmental assessment and conservation responsibilities remain applicable while the scientific and spatial documentation is being further developed.

Particular attention is being given to improving the consistency and availability of spatial information concerning the Emerald candidate site, the national protected-area network and relevant developments in the wider Vjosa–Narta area. The consolidation of such information, including boundaries, areas of overlap, project locations and relevant habitat and species data, will support more informed environmental assessment and conservation planning.

In parallel, Albania is advancing the technical preparation of its Natura 2000 network, including the development of Standard Data Forms for proposed sites. This process offers opportunities to strengthen the scientific basis of Emerald Network documentation through the complementary use of existing habitat and species assessments, spatial information and monitoring data.

Building on the discussions held in Strasbourg, the Ministry of Environment remains committed to strengthening technical cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Bern Convention Secretariat, particularly regarding the preparation and updating of Emerald Network Standard Data Forms. Closer coordination with Albania’s ongoing Natura 2000 process would facilitate the exchange of scientific information, methodological expertise and spatial data, while promoting consistency between the two networks and avoiding unnecessary duplication of work.

7. Access to Environmental Information and Civil Society Dialogue

The concerns raised regarding access to environmental documentation and opportunities for public participation are addressed within Albania’s legal framework on access to environmental information, public consultation and Environmental Impact Assessment, including the obligations arising from the Aarhus Convention.

Under the applicable EIA procedure, environmental documentation is subject to the relevant requirements concerning public information, consultation and participation. In particular, Council of Ministers Decision No. 686, dated 29 July 2015, as amended, establishes procedural requirements for the preparation of environmental assessment documentation and the organisation of public consultation during the in-depth EIA process. These requirements are intended to ensure that interested parties have opportunities to obtain relevant information and express their views before the competent authorities take a final environmental decision.

The Ministry of Environment remains open to constructive engagement with civil society organisations, including EcoAlbania and PPNEA, as well as scientific institutions, local communities and other interested stakeholders. Such engagement is particularly relevant to the exchange of scientific information, biodiversity monitoring, environmental assessment and the

identification of appropriate conservation measures in the wider Vjosa–Narta ecological system.

As a further measure to facilitate public access to official information concerning proposed developments in the Sazan and Zvërnec areas, the online platform **“Flamingo Mirror” (Pasqyra e Flamingos)** was officially launched on 3 October 2026 by the Prime Minister of Albania and the Minister of Environment, as part of the broader PasqyrAlbania initiative.

Available in Albanian and English, the platform is designed to provide public access to official government documents and information concerning matters of significant public interest. It also includes a dedicated questions-and-answers component, enabling public enquiries to be addressed on the basis of available official documentation.

The Sazan–Zvërnec file was selected as the first file published on the platform, reflecting the considerable public interest in the proposed developments. The platform provides access to documentation available at the relevant stages of the administrative process and is intended to be updated as additional documents are prepared and become available.

This initiative represents an additional institutional measure aimed at strengthening transparency and facilitating access to official information. It complements, rather than replaces, the applicable statutory obligations concerning access to environmental information, public consultation and participation in environmental decision-making procedures.

8. Cooperation with the Secretariat and Possible On-the-Spot Appraisal

The Albanian authorities remain committed to maintaining close and constructive cooperation with the Bern Convention Secretariat and the relevant bodies of the Convention in addressing the issues raised under Case-file No. 2016/05. This cooperation includes the exchange of available technical and administrative documentation, clarification of environmental assessment procedures, and continued dialogue on the updating of the Emerald Network Standard Data Form and related conservation matters.

Building on the exchanges already undertaken with the Secretariat, the Ministry of Environment remains available to provide further technical clarifications and supporting information, as appropriate, and to facilitate cooperation between the Secretariat and the competent national institutions.

Regarding the possibility of an on-the-spot appraisal in 2027, Albania expresses its readiness to cooperate constructively with the Secretariat and relevant experts, should the Standing Committee decide to mandate such a mission. In that event, the Ministry would facilitate the necessary coordination with the competent authorities and discussions concerning the mission's scope, objectives and practical arrangements.

9. Next Steps and Conclusion

Albania will continue to address the outstanding issues identified under Case-file No. 2016/05, with particular attention to the environmental assessment of relevant developments and their cumulative impacts, continued monitoring of the Zvërnec area, and the identification of appropriate restoration measures based on technical findings.

Further priorities include advancing the updating of the Emerald Network Standard Data Form and related spatial documentation, facilitating access to environmental information, and maintaining constructive dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

The Republic of Albania reiterates its commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the Bern Convention and to continued cooperation with the Bureau, Standing Committee and Secretariat, including the provision of relevant technical information as it becomes available through the competent national authorities.

Supporting Annexes

Annex 1. National Environment Agency Decision of 15 May 2026 requiring an in-depth Environmental Impact Assessment for the Zvërnec development project (previously transmitted to the Bern Convention Secretariat and reattached for ease of reference).

Annex 2. Council of Ministers Decision No. 686, dated 29 July 2015, as amended, concerning the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure (English version).

DECISION No. 686, dated 29.7.2015

ON THE APPROVAL OF THE RULES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DEADLINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCEDURE AND THE PROCEDURE FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE DECISION AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL DECLARATION *(Amended by DCM; no. 95, dated 14.2.2018; no. 714, dated 6.11.2019 ; no. 828, dated*

28.12.20233; no. 204, dated 30.3.2026)

(updated)

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution and point 5 of Article 7 of Law no. 10440, dated 7.7.2011, “On Environmental Impact Assessment”, as amended, upon the proposal of the Minister of Environment, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

CHAPTER I

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

1. The developer intending to implement a project, which is subject to the requirements of Article 8, of Law No. 10440, dated 7.7.2011, “On environmental impact assessment”, as amended, who in the initial stages of project planning (project idea), submits to the Ministry of Environment the request through the electronic system and the following documentation:

1.1 The technical report of the proposed project, which includes:

a) the purpose of the proposed project;

b) the site plan of the project location, where the boundaries of the area shall be reflected on a topographic map, accompanied by coordinates, according to the GAUS KRUGE coordinate system, photographs and data on the existing use of the area that will be used temporarily or permanently by the project, during the construction phase or the operation of the activity;

c) information on the inhabited centers, in the area where the project is proposed to be implemented, accompanied by photographs and data on their distance from the location of the proposed project, as well as the determination of the local government unit that administers the territory where the project is proposed) the sketches and layout plans of the project's objects and structures, as well as the ways and methods that will be used for the construction of the project's objects and structures;

d) the description of the construction and technological processes, including the production/processing capacities, the quantities of raw materials and the final products of the project;

dh) information on the infrastructure necessary for connection to the electricity grid, water supply, discharges of wastewater and waste, as well as information on the existing access roads or the need to open new roads;

e) the program for construction, the duration of construction, the planned duration for the operation of the project, the possible time for the completion of the operation of the project and, as the case may be, also the planned phase of rehabilitation of the surface, after the end of the operation of the project; ë) the raw materials that will be used for construction and the manner of ensuring them (construction materials, water and energy);

f) information on the possible links of the project with other existing projects around/near the area

of the project;

g) information on the alternatives taken into consideration, as regards the selection of the project location and the technology that will be used;

j) data on the use of raw materials during operation, including the quantities of water required, energy, fuels and the manner of their provision;

h)other activities that may be needed for the implementation of the project, such as the construction of camps or residences etc.;

i) detailed information on the permits, authorisations and licences necessary for the project, in accordance with the determinations made in the legislation in force, as well as the competent institutions for the permitting / authorisation/ licensing of the project;

j) Data on the existing use of the land surface where the project will be developed.

1.2 The preliminary EIA report, which includes:

a) description of the vegetation cover of the area where the project is proposed to be implemented, accompanied also by photographs;

b) information on the presence of water resources, on the area required by the project and in its vicinity; c) information regarding the identification of possible negative impacts on the environment of the project, including impacts on biodiversity, water, soil and air;

c) a description of possible discharges into the environment, such as: polluted waters, gases and dust, noise, vibrations, as well as waste generation;

d) information on the possible duration of the identified negative impacts; dh)dataonthepossiblespatialextentofthenegativeimpactontheenvironment,whichmeans the physical distance from the location of the project, and the affected values included in it; e) the possibility of rehabilitation of the affected environment and the possibility of returning the affected surface environment to the previous condition, as well as the approximate financial costs for rehabilitation; ë) possible measures for avoiding and mitigating negative impacts on the environment; f) possible impacts on the transboundary environment (if the project is of such a nature). The preliminary EIA report shall be electronically signed by a natural or legal person, certified in accordance with this law.

1.3 Repealed.

1.4 A copy of the invoice for payment of the service fee, in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force.

1.5 Power of attorney for the authorisation of the applicant when not the same as the developer.

2. Repealed.

3. The Ministry, upon receipt of the application, preliminarily verifies whether the documentation submitted by the developer is in compliance with the requirements of point 1 of this chapter and forwards it within the day to the National Environment Agency (NEA), accompanied by the relevant recommendation. 4. The NEA, within 2 (two) working days from the date of receipt of the application and the accompanying documentation, examines the request, also based on the recommendation of the ministry, and in the event that it finds that the documentation filed by the applicant is not complete or contains inaccuracies, notifies the applicant through the "e-Albania" portal, requesting the completion of the documentation and the identified inaccuracies, within 20 (twenty) working days from the day of notification.

4/1.Failuretocompletetherequireddocumentationwithinthespecifieddeadlinesetoutinpoint4,oft his chapter, constitutes grounds for non-acceptance of the request, which, in this case, is deemed not to have been registered. The applicant is notified through the "e-Albania" portal of the reasons for non-acceptance and the request is returned together with the other acts.

4/2. The NEA, when it assesses that the application documentation or the completed documentation is complete, according to point 1 of this chapter, within 2 (two) working days from receipt of the application or completion of the documentation, forwards it to the following institutions, which give their opinion within 4 (four) working days:

a) the line ministries, depending on the project;

b) the technical directorates of the ministry, according to the specifics of the project;

c) other institutions that, depending on the type of project, are responsible for its permitting/authorisation/licensing or responsible for planning and development, public health, and natural and civil emergencies;

d) the Regional Environment Agency (REA), in the county where the project is proposed to be implemented, to which the relevant instructions are also given for obtaining the opinion from the local self-government units. 5.The REA,within the day from receipt of the application from the NEA,sends it for opinion through the electronic system to the local self-government unit(s) where the project is proposed, which express themselves within 3 (three) working days from receipt of the application.

6.The NEA informs the public, according to the procedures of the legislation in force for informing and involving the public in decision-making.

7. If the institutions specified in point 4/2 of this chapter do not express themselves within the deadline, the NEA continues with the procedure for reviewing the request and, within 10 (ten) working days from receipt of the application, takes the decision on the preliminary EIA or decides that the project shall be subject to the in-depth EIA procedure, according to the format of Annex IV, attached to this decision, forwards the decision to the developer, while also informing the ministry, and publishes it on its electronic website. 8. The NEA relies on the auxiliary criteria of Annex 1, attached to this decision, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of Law no. 10440, dated 7.7.2011, "On environmental impact assessment", as amended, for decision-making.

9. In the event that the institutions consulted above request additional information, the NEA, within 2 (two) working days from receiving the opinions, requests the developer, through the

electronic system, to complete the missing information, also providing the relevant reasoning and notifying the Ministry as well. The deadline for completing the information by the developer may not be longer than 30 (thirty) working days. 9/1.TheNEAforwardsthecompletedinformationordocumentationfromthedeveloperwithintheda y to the institutions consulted in point 9 of this chapter, which express their opinion on the additional information within 2 (two) working days.

10.ThedecisionisregisteredintheRegisterforEnvironmentalImpactAssessment,oftheNEA,and is published on its website.

11. Repealed.

12. The maximum deadline for sending the decision to the developer is 12 (twelve) working days from the application submitted to the ministry. In cases of completion of the documentation, calculating the deadlines according to points 4 and 9 of this chapter, the maximum deadline for sending the decision to the developer is 14 (fourteen) working days, not including here the time needed by the developer entity to complete the documentation. If the developer does not complete the documentation/information within the deadlines specified in point 9, it means that the developer has withdrawn from the application for the preliminary EIA.

CHAPTER II

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DETAILED EIA PROCEDURE

1. The developer intending to implement a project, which is subject to the in-depth EIA procedure, notifies, through the electronic system, the ministry in the initial stages of the development of the project (project idea), accompanying it with the following information:

1.1 The technical report of the proposed project, which includes:

a) the description of the purpose of the proposed project;

b)the planimetry of the location of the project, where the boundaries of the surface area are reflected on a topographic map, accompanied by coordinates according to the GAUS KRUGE coordinate system, photographs and data on the existing use of the surface area that will be used temporarily or permanently by the project, during the construction phase or operation of the activity;

c)information on inhabited centres in the area where the project is proposed to be implemented, accompanied by photographs and data on their distance from the location of the proposed project, as well as the determination of the local government unit that administers the territory where the project is proposed;ç) sketches and planimetries of the project objects and project structures;

d) the description of construction and technological processes, including production/processing capacities, quantities of raw materials and the final products of the project;

dh) data on the infrastructure necessary for connection to the electricity network, water supply, discharges of polluted water and waste, as well as information on existing access roads or the need to open new roads;

e)theprogramfortheconstruction,thedurationofconstruction,theplanneddurationoftheoperationo ftheproject,thepossibletimeforthecompletionoftheoperationoftheprojectand,asappropriate,also theplanned phase of rehabilitation of the surface after the end of the operation of the project;

ë) the ways and methods that will be used for the construction of the project objects; f) the raw materials that will be used for construction and the method of securing them (construction materials, water and energy);

g) information on the possible links of the project with other existing projects around/near the project area;

gj) information on the alternatives taken into consideration as regards the selection of the location of the project and the technology that will be used;

h) data on the use of raw materials during operation, including the quantities of water required, of energy, fuels and on the manner of securing them;

i) data on other activities that may be needed for the implementation of the project, such as the construction of camps or residences, etc.;

j) detailed information on the permits, authorisations and licenses necessary for the project, in accordance with the determinations made in the legislation in force, as well as the competent authorities for the permitting / authorisation/ licensing of the project.

k) Data on the existing use of the land area where the project will be developed. 1.2 The information on the project's interaction with the environment shall be electronically signed by the natural or legal person, certified in accordance with this law, and contains: a) a brief description of the vegetation cover of the area where the project is proposed to be implemented, accompanied also by images taken no later than 6 months from the date of the application;

b) information on the presence of water resources in the area required by the project and in its vicinity;
c)anidentificationofthepossiblenegativeenvironmentalimpactsoftheproject,includingimpactso nbiodiversity, water, soil, air;

ç) a brief description of the possible discharges into the environment, such as: polluted waters, gases and dust, noise, as well as the generation of waste;

d) information on the possible duration of the identified negative impacts; dh)dataonthepossiblespatialextentofthenegativeimpactontheenvironment,which means the physical distance from the location of the project and the affected values included in it; e) the possibility of rehabilitation of the affected environment and the possibility of restoring the surface of the affected environment to the previous condition, including agricultural land, as well as the approximate financial costs for rehabilitation;

e) the possible measures for avoiding and mitigating negative impacts on the environment; f) the possible impacts on the transboundary environment (if the project is of such a nature).

1.3 Power of attorney for the authorisation of the applicant when it is not the same as the developer.

2. Repealed.

3. The Ministry, upon receipt of the application, preliminarily verifies whether the documentation submitted by the developer is in compliance with the requirements of point 1 of this chapter and forwards it within the day to the National Environment Agency (NEA), accompanying it with the relevant recommendation.
4.TheNEA,within2(two)workingdaysfromthedateofreceiptoftheapplicationandthe accompanying documentation, reviews the request also based on the ministry's

recommendation and, in the event that it finds that the documentationdepositedbytheapplicantisnotcompleteorhasinaccuracies,notifiesitthrough the "e-Albania" portal, requesting the completion of the documentation and of the identified inaccuracies, within 20 (twenty) working days from the day of notification.

4/1.The failure to complete the required documentation within the time limit set out in point 4, of this chapter, constitutes grounds for non-acceptance of the request, which, in this case, is considered not to have been registered. The applicant is notified through the "e-Albania" portal of the reasons for non-acceptance and the request is returned together with the other acts.

4/2. When the NEA assesses that the application documentation or the completed documentation is complete, according to point 1 of this chapter, within 2 (two) working days, it forwards it to the following institutions, which give their opinion within 4 (four) working days:

a) the line ministries, depending on the project;

b) the ministry's technical directorates, according to the specifics of the project;

c) other institutions that, depending on the type of project, are responsible for its permitting/authorisation/licensing or responsible for planning and development, public health and natural and civil emergencies;

d) the Regional Environment Agency (REA), in the county where the project is proposed to be implemented, which is also given the relevant instructions for obtaining the opinion from the local self-government units. 5.The REA, within the day from receipt of the application from the NEA, sends it for opinion through the electronic system to the local self-government unit(s) where the project is proposed, which express themselves within 3 (three) working days from receipt of the application.

6. The NEA, after receiving the opinions from the institutions of point 4 above, notifies, through the electronic system, the developer of issues that it must address in the in-depth EIA report, while informing the ministry as well, such as:

a) its requirements and those of the institutions, which must be taken into account and addressed in the in-depth EIA report;

b) analysis of possible alternatives for the implementation of the project;

c)guidanceforstudiesandmethodsforthesafeguardingenvironmentalinformationandthepredic-tion of environmental impacts during the drafting of the in-depth EIA report;

c) the structure and ordering of the information in the in-depth EIA report, in accordance with Annex II, of this decision;

d) guidance in the case when the project is subject to the cross-border EIA procedure. 7. The maximum deadline from receipt of the notification, according to point 1, of this chapter, until the notification through the electronic system to the developer, according to point 6, of this chapter, is 12 (twelve) working days. The deadline for completing the documentation according to point 4 of this chapter is not counted in the maximum deadline. 8. The developer, after receiving the notification from the NEA according to point 6, above, drafts the in-depth EIA draft report and organises the hearing with the public, according to the procedures of the legislation in force on informing and involving the public in decision-making.

9.At the end of the hearing, the developer drafts the In-depth EIA Report, according to the criteria of Annex II, attached to this decision.

10.To be provided with the environmental declaration, the developer applies to the ministry through the electronic system and completes the following documentation:

a)The detailed EIA report, electronically signed by the natural or legal person, certified in accordance with this law;

b) The non-technical summary of the detailed EIA report;

c) The final technical report, drafted according to the requirements of point 1.1, of this chapter;ç) Summary of consultations with the public and other interested parties, carried out during the drafting of the detailed EIA report;

d) A copy of the invoice for payment of the service fee, according to the provisions in the relevant legislation.

dh) Repealed;

e) Power of attorney for the authorisation of the applicant when it is not the same as the developer. 11. The Ministry, upon receipt of the application, preliminarily verifies whether the documentation submitted by the developer is in accordance with the requirements of point 10 of this chapter and forwards it within 2 (two) working days to the National Environment Agency (AKM), accompanying it with the relevant recommendation. 12.AKM,within3(three)workingdaysfromthedayofreceiptoftheapplication,publishesontheoffici alwebsite

the non-technical summary of the In-Depth EIA Report, in accordance with the procedures of the legislation in force for informing and involving the public in decision-making.

13.The NEA, within 20 (twenty) working days from the date of receipt of the application, reviews the documentation and drafts the Environmental Statement, according to the criteria specified in Annex III, attached to this decision, and sends it to the minister.

14. The Minister, within 5 (five) working days, issues the Environmental Statement or returns the statement to the NEA for reassessment, with the relevant arguments. The NEA sends the reassessed statement to the Minister within 7 (seven) working days.

15.The Ministry sends the Environmental Statement to the developer and a copy of it to the NEA. The Environmental Statement is published on the websites of the Ministry and the NEA.

16. The format of the Environmental Statement is according to annex V, attached to this decision.

CHAPTER III

TRANSFER OF THE DECISION OR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

1.When the developer changes, after the preliminary EIA procedure has been completed, the new developer submits to the NEA, in the electronic system for environmental impact assessment, through the e-Albania portal, the request for the transfer of the decision on the preliminary EIA, accompanied by the following documentation:

a) the existing decision;

b) the act/contract for the transfer of the activity, from the existing developer to the new developer; c)the report on the implementation of the conditions of the decision on the

preliminary EIA, from the time of the issuance of the decision until the moment when the request for its transfer is made.

2. The transfer of the decision for the preliminary EIA procedure is made by order of the head of the NEA. The transfer order is forwarded to the new developer, through the system, within 7 (seven) working days from the date of submission of the request.

3.When the developer changes, after the in-depth EIA procedure has been completed, the new developer submits to the ministry, in the electronic system for environmental impact assessment, through the e-Albania portal, the request for the transfer of the environmental declaration, accompanied by the following documentation:

a) the existing environmental declaration;

b) the act/contract for the transfer of the activity, from the existing developer to the new developer; c)the report on the implementation of the conditions of the environmental declaration, from the time of being equipped with the environmental declaration, until the moment when the request for its transfer is made, if implementation has begun. 4. The transfer of the environmental declaration is made by order of the minister. The transfer order is transmitted to the new developer, through the system, within 7 (seven) working days from the date of submission of the request.

CHAPTER IV

MONITORING OF IMPACTS, CONFIDENTIALITY, APPEAL AND COMMUNICATION

1. During the implementation of the project, the developer has the responsibility to carry out the monitoring of its impacts on the environment, in accordance with the determinations in the environmental statement and the legislation in force. 2. In the event that the developer considers that certain data in the documentation required by the EIA procedure are confidential, then he communicates this to the NEA at the moment of submission of the documentation where the confidential data are contained.

3. If NEA is notified, in advance, by the developer for the preservation of confidential data, then it applies the requirements of the relevant legislation, according to the provisions of Law no. 9901, dated 14.4.2008, “On commercial companies”, as amended, of Law no. 9887, dated 10.3.2008, “On the protection of personal data”, of Law no. 9380, dated 28.4.2005, “On copyright and related rights”, as well as of Law no. 9947, dated 7.7.2008, “On industrial property”, as amended.

4. Each party has the right to appeal through administrative channels against acts, actions or omissions during the conduct of the EIA procedure, in accordance with the requirements of Article 25, of Law No. 10440, dated

7.7.2011, “On environmental impact assessment”, as amended.

CHAPTER V

FINAL PROVISIONS

1. Upon the entry into force of this decision, decision no. 13, dated 4.1.2013, of the Council of Ministers, “On the approval of the rules, responsibilities and deadlines for the development of the environmental impact assessment procedure”, and order no. 1859, dated 1.8.2014, of the Minister, “On the approval of the format of the decision for the preliminary EIA, the decision for the in-depth EIA and the environmental declaration”, are repealed. 2. The Ministry of

Environment and the National Environment Agency are charged with the implementation of this decision. This decision enters into force after publication in the Official Gazette and begins its legal effects from 1 September 2015.

PRIME MINISTER

Edi Rama

ANNEX I

AUXILIARY CRITERIA FOR DECISION-MAKING DURING THE PRELIMINARY EIA PROCEDURE

1. Characteristics of the project:

- the size of the project;

- cumulative effects with other projects;

- use of natural resources;

- waste production,

- the volume of the discharge of pollution and noise into the environment;

-the possibility of accidents with consequences on the environment, taking into account, in particular, the substances or technologies used.

2. Characteristics of the environment in the project area:

a) the existing use of the land required by the project;

b) the state of the environment in the area where the project is proposed, paying special attention to:- wetlands;

- coastal areas;

- forest areas;

- protected natural areas, of national and international importance and their distance from the area where the project is proposed;

- the biodiversity of the area and the conservation/protection status;

- areas where the environmental quality standards have been exceeded (defined in other acts);- areas with high population density;

- the existence of environmental infrastructure and the project's access to waste disposal sites

and in wastewater treatment plants;

- objects of historical, cultural or archaeological importance.

3. Characteristics of the potential environmental impact

The potential environmental impacts of the proposed project must be examined in combination with the criteria set out in points 1 and 2 above, and taking into account, in particular:- the type of potential negative environmental impacts;

- the spatial extent of the potential negative environmental impacts and their possible duration (the geographical area and the size of the affected population);

- the scale and complexity of the impact;

- the possibility of the occurrence of impacts;

- the transboundary nature of the project and the impact on the transboundary environment;

- the opinions and requirements given by the institutions, according to Chapter I, focusing them on:- the existence and land use plans and development in the project area;- the compliance of the project with local, regional and national development plans;- special requirements for the protection of public health from the environmental impacts of the project.

ANNEX II

THE STRUCTURE OF THE ARRANGEMENT AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE DETAILED EIA REPORT

Introduction

Explanation of acronyms

1. Information on the purpose of the EIA and the methodology applied

a) Description of the purpose and objectives of the EIA;

b) A brief description of the environmental legal and institutional framework related to the project; c) Description of the methodology applied for drafting the in-depth EIA report:- Authors of the drafting of the in-depth EIA report;

- The methodologies applied and the manner of securing the information for drafting the in-depth EIA report (if it is detailed, it may also be included as an annex to the report);

-Consultations carried out during the drafting of the in-depth EIA report;

-A description of the difficulties (technical deficiencies or knowledge deficiencies) that the developer encountered during the drafting of the required information.

2. Description of the project, including:

a) the description of the purpose of the proposed project;

b) the site plan of the project location, showing, on a topographic map, the area of land requested, the boundaries of the area of land requested, accompanied by the coordinates according to the GAUS KRUGE Coordinate System, data on the existing use of the area of land that will be used temporarily or permanently by the project during the construction phase or the installation of equipment;

c) the sketches and floor plans of the project objects and project structures; ç) the description of the construction and technological processes, including the production / processing capacities, the quantities of raw materials and the final products of the project;

d) the infrastructure necessary for connection to the electricity grid, water supply, discharges of polluted waters and waste, as well as information on existing access roads or the need for the opening of new roads;

dh) the programme for the construction, the duration of the construction, the planned duration of the operation of the project, the possible time of the completion of the operation of the project and, as the case may be, also the planned phase of the rehabilitation of the surface after the end of the operation of the project; e) the ways and methods that will be used for the construction of the project objects; ë) the raw materials that will be used for the construction and the manner of securing them (construction materials, water and energy);

f) information on the possible links of the project with other existing projects around / near the project area;

g)information regarding the alternatives taken into consideration as regards the selection of the location of the project and the technology that will be used;

gj)the use of substances during operation, including the quantities of water needed, energy, fuels and the manner of their provision;

h)other activities that may be needed for the implementation of the project, such as the construction of camps or residences, etc.; information on the permits and licenses necessary for the project, required by the legislation in force, as well as the competent institutions for the permitting/authorisation/licensing of the project. 3. A description of the analysis of the possible alternatives for the implementation of the project or its specific components (such as: road access, administration of waste and wastewater, types of fuels, location of the project, etc.), as well as clarification of the main reasons for the proposed alternative, taking into account the environmental impacts of each alternative, as well as, where applicable, the opinions and suggestions of the responsible institutions that cover the field of implementation of the project.

4. A description of the existing condition and values of the environment, which may be affected by the implementation of the proposed project, including:

4.1 Description of the physical characteristics of the project area:

- Description of climatic factors;

- Geomorphological description and the seismicity of the project area;

- Description of the geology and soil in the project area;

- Description of the surface and groundwater in the project area.

4.2 Description of biodiversity in the project area:

- Description of the main habitats in the project area, as well as illustrative maps;- Description of the vegetation in each habitat and their national and international conservation status;

- Description of the fauna in each habitat and their national and international conservation status;- Description of the protected areas near the site where the project is proposed to be implemented, including natural monuments protected by law.

4.3 Description of the quality of the environment and existing impacts:

- The quality of the waters in the area studied for the drafting of the in-depth EIA report;- The quality of the air in the area studied for the drafting of the in-depth EIA report;- The noise level in the area studied for the drafting of the in-depth EIA report;- Waste management in the area where the project is proposed;

- Other problems (if identified), such as: soil erosion, fires, historical pollution, etc.;- The main environmental pressures in the project area (such as: environmental pollution, deforestation, etc.).

4.4 Description of the social characteristics of the area where the project is proposed:

- The local government unit that administers the area where the project is implemented;

- The population and the main economic activities of the area;

- Land use in the project area;

- The monumental and archaeological values and objects in the vicinity of the project area;

- Management of waste and urban wastewater.

5. A description of the significant negative impacts of the proposed project on the environment, including:

5.1 Negative impacts on the environment:

- Negative impacts on the physical characteristics of the project area;

- Negative impacts on the habitats and biodiversity of the project area;

- Discharges into the environment and the generation of waste;

-Additional negative (cumulative) impacts on the quality of the environment in the project area and natural resources, such as minerals, forests, water resources;

- The social impacts of the project, such as the change in land use and concerns that may arise from the project's impacts on the environment (such as: noise, dust, use of natural resources, etc.);- Depending on the nature of the project, a description of possible accidents with consequences for the environment.

5.2 Characteristics of negative impacts on the environment:

- Methods applied for forecasting negative impacts on the environment;

-The physical extent and duration of the identified impacts (scale);

- The type of identified impacts (direct and indirect);

-The possibility of mitigating impacts and the corresponding justifications if, for certain impacts, mitigating measures cannot be applied/undertaken;

-The areas sensitive to the project's impacts (protected areas and habitats, populated centers, water resources, archaeological areas, etc.);

6. Impacts on the transboundary environment of the project (if any).

7. Positive impacts on the environment of the project area.

8. The measures proposed for the protection of the environment from each negative impact, identified in paragraph 5 above.

9. The program for monitoring environmental impacts during the implementation of the project.

10. The environmental management and monitoring plan:

- The roles and responsibilities for the implementation of each proposed measure for the protection of the environment, at each phase of the project;

- The respective costs of implementing the proposed measures for the protection of the environment;- The plan for communication and informing the public on environmental impacts, the measures taken for the protection of the environment and the monitoring of environmental impacts during the implementation of the project.

11. Annexes to the detailed EIA report:

- Summary, in non-technical language, of the detailed EIA report;

- The specific requirements of the NEA and the consulted institutions, according to sections “C” and “D”, of this decision;

- Information on the manner of carrying out the consultation during the process of drafting the detailed EIA report and the consultation methods, the respective results, the contacts of the persons and entities that have participated in this process, the opinions that have been given and the reasoning as to how they have or have not been addressed in the detailed EIA report, including the requests and opinions given in the public hearing;- Lists of floristic and faunal types in the project area and the national and international conservation/protection status;

- The references of the sources of information used in the detailed EIA report;- The certificate of the specialist/s who has drafted the preliminary EIA report.

ANNEX III

AUXILIARY CRITERIA FOR THE REVIEW OF THE DETAILED EIA REPORT AND THE DRAFTING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

During the review of the detailed EIA report and the drafting of the environmental statement, the NEA takes into account:

a) the manner in which the EIA procedure has been implemented;

b) the manner in which the information, consultation and public hearing procedure has been implemented; c) the manner in which the opinions and suggestions given by the parties involved during the EIA procedure, especially those of the consultation and public hearing, have been taken into consideration in the detailed EIA report;ç) the presentation of the information in the detailed EIA report, in accordance with the structure of Annex II;

d) possible negative impacts on protected areas;

dh) the types of significant negative impacts on the environment, the quantity, duration and spatial extent of each of them;

e) the feasibility of implementation and the expected effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures for the protection of the environment from the negative impacts of the project;

ë)the accuracy of the data and information presented in the detailed EIA report and the verifiability of the sources of the data used;

f) the compliance of the proposed project with the objectives of environmental protection and the environmental norms and standards in force;

g) the compliance of the project with the existing plans for land use and economic development at the local, regional and national level;

gj) consideration of the alternatives and the corresponding analysis for the implementation of the proposed project; h) in the case of transboundary EIA, the manner in which the corresponding procedure has been implemented.

ANNEX IV

DECISION

ON the PRELIMINARY EIA

Pursuant tothelawno.10440,dated7.7.2011,“Onenvironmentalimpactassessment”,amended,anddecision

no.____,dated_____,oftheCouncilofMinisters,"Onapprovalofthe rules,responsibilitiesanddeadlinesforthedevelopmentoftheprocedureforenvironmentalimpactassessment",NEA, after the completion of the preliminary EIA procedure, decided that this project should not be subject to the in-depth EIA procedure for the Developer with the data, as follows: Legal/natural person (name, TIN no., address)

_____

To redevelop the project……(Title of the proposed project, refer to the project in accordance with the activities listed in Annexes I and II, of the EIA law) with location....., area....., coordinates.....

Based on Article 11, of the law on EIA ..... below we list: 1. The main reasons and considerations on which this decision has been based:

.....
. .....

2. The opinion of the consulted institutions:

.....
. .....

3. Measures that must be taken to avoid, reduce or correct possible negative impacts on the environment:

a) .....

b).....

c).....

DIRECTOR OF NEA

(name, surname, signature, seal)

DECISION

ON the EIA, DETAILED

Pursuant to Law no.10440, dated 7.7.2011, "On environmental impact assessment", as amended, and decision no.____, dated_____, of the Council of Ministers, "On the approval of the rules, responsibilities and deadlines for the development of the environmental impact assessment procedure", the NEA, after completion of the preliminary EIA procedure, decided that this project should be subject to the in-depth EIA procedure for the Developer with the data, as follows:

Legal/natural person (name, NIPT no., address,)

_____

To develop the project……(Title of the proposed project, refer to the project in accordance with the activities listed in Annexes I and II of the EIA law) with location....., area....., coordinates..... Based on Article 11, of Law no. 10440, dated 07.07.2011 "On environmental impact assessment", as amended, below we list:

1. The main reasons and considerations on which this decision is based:

.....
.

.....

2. The opinion of the consulted institutions:

.....
.

.....

DIRECTOR OF THE NEA

(name, surname, signature, seal)

ANNEX V

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Pursuant tothelawno.10440,date7.7.2011,“Onenvironmentalimpactassessment”,amended, decision no. _____, dated _____, of the Council of Ministers, “On the approval of the rules, responsibilities and deadlines for the development of the environmental impact assessment procedure”, and upon the proposal of the National Environment Agency, the Minister

DECIDED:

Issuance of the Environmental Statement for the Developer with the data, as followsLegal/natural person (name, NIPT no., address)

_____

To redevelop the project ……(Title of the proposed project, refer to the project in accordance with the activities listed in Annexes I and II of the EIA law) with location....., area....., coordinates..... Based on Article 12, of Law no. 10440, dated 7.7.2011, “On environmental impact assessment”, as amended, it is suggested to the planning authority: (Choose one of the following alternatives:) 1. Approval of the development permit for that project, without any remarks from the environmental point of view;
2.Approvalofthedevelopmentpermit/licenceforthatproject,withtheconditionsthatmustbefulfilled by the developer, in order to prevent, minimise and manage negative environmental impacts;
3.Rejectionoftheapplicationforadevelopmentpermit/licenceforthatproject,duetosignificantnegativeenvironmentalimpactswithlong-termconsequences,whichdamagethequalityoftheenvironmentanddo not enable the fulfilment of the relevant environmental standards.

Based on point 2, of article 12, of law no. 10440, dated 7.7.2011, “On environmental impact assessment”, as amended, below we are listing:

1.The position of the ministry and, as the case may be, the conditions that must be fulfilled by the developer: a)……

b)……

c)……

2.Confirmation that the ministry has taken into consideration the opinions expressed by the public and the relevant institutions, as well as the degree of their reflection;

3. Information on the process of consultation carried out with the public;

4. The main reasons and considerations on which the opinion has been based;

5. The description, as appropriate, of the main measures that must be taken to avoid, reduce and, if possible, correct significant adverse effects:

a)……

b)……

c)……..

Director of the NEA

(name, signature, seal)

MINISTER

Name, surname

(signature, seal)