



**For Immediate Release
20th March 2017**

**A United Nations body has asked the UK to suspend Hinkley Point C
pending an environmental assessment.**

A United Nations committee has asked the U.K. to suspend construction of the Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant pending assessment of the environmental impact.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) requested the pause until it established whether “a notification under the Espoo Convention” was useful. The Espoo Convention sets out the obligations of countries to “*assess the environmental impact of certain activities.*”

The UK has failed to properly consult neighbouring countries over the potential environmental risks of building the new nuclear reactors in Somerset. Germany, Norway and the Netherlands have now formally requested that a transboundary environmental impact assessment is carried out. So UNECE has asked the UK to suspend work at Hinkley Point until the assessment has been carried out.

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson, Roy Pumfrey said:

“This is yet another embarrassment for the Government and its obsession with outdated, dangerous nuclear technology. This month we have already seen the Daily Telegraph warn that the old energy order is drawing to a close and that Theresa May’s Government will be cursed for locking us into Hinkley Point C’s ruinously high prices. Commentators and energy experts from all shades of opinion have told her that this phenomenally expensive project is an unnecessary form of power generation. Unlike previous Prime Ministers we know she is not averse to the occasional U-turn, so she should take the opportunity presented by the United Nations Committee to call a halt to this project now.”

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Notes

- (1) Bloomberg 18th March 2017 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-18/un-asks-u-k-to-pause-hinkley-nuclear-plant-work-for-assessment>

- (2) The full document from the UNECE Economic and Social Council, released 18th March, is available here
https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2017/IC_38/ece.mp.eia.ic.2017.2_IC38report_13.03.2017_as_adopted_for_web.pdf
- (3) Daily Telegraph 4th March 2017 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/03/04/old-energy-order-draws-close-amid-battery-storage-revolution/>

For further information on this issue see the Friends of the Irish Environment Press Release and associated documents here: <http://www.friendsoftheirishenvironment.org/press-releases/17429-threat-to-work-at-hinkley-c-nuclear-plant-call-on-minister-to-assert-irish-rights>

In a further twist a member of the public in Germany has just won a case because she asked her country to guarantee her right to public participation under the Aarhus Convention in the Hinkley Point C environmental assessment.

See: https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/compliance/C2013-92/Correspondence_Party_concerned/C92_Germany_DraftFindings_18.11.2016_for_parties_comments.docx