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UNITED NATIONS

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6 August 2012

Mr. Morten Imer Møller  
Head of section  
Danish Environmental Protection Agency  
Ministry of the Environment  
29, Strandgade str.  
1401 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Mr. Knud Haugmark  
Skelhøjvej 25 C 1. th.  
2800 Lyngby, Denmark

Dear Mr. Møller,  
Dear Mr. Haugmark,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Denmark with provisions of the Convention in connection with access to information on distribution of medicine to Danish livestock (Ref. ACCC/C/2008/28)**

At its thirty-sixth meeting (Geneva 27-30 March 2012), the Committee had asked the secretariat to seek your views on how to proceed with the above mentioned communication, given the fact that the latest decision of the Ministry of Science had granted access for the communicant to any information in Vetstat, and, by that, the requests for access to the database had been fully met.

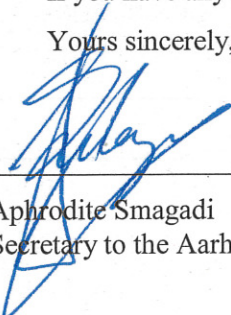
At its thirty-seventh meeting (Geneva 26-29 June 2012) the Committee took note of the letter of the communicant of 22 May 2012, as well as of informal exchange of emails between the secretariat and the parties.

The Committee expressed its concern that the practice in the Danish system might not comply with the requirements of article 9, paragraph 4 of the Convention, that the remedies be adequate and effective, and the procedures be fair and timely. However, since the communicant had finally, after far too long a wait, obtained access to the requested information, and since in a telephone conversation with the Secretariat he had made it clear he would now actually prefer if the Committee concluded the case without a hearing (making, however, a note in its report about the seven years it took for him to eventually access environmental information), the Committee decided to close the case without making a formal finding of non-compliance. Nevertheless, the Committee stressed that the time it had taken for the communicant in the present case to get access to the requested information was way beyond the time limit required by the Convention, and the handling by the Danish authorities was not compatible with the Convention.

The advance copy of the report of the thirty-seventh meeting, including information concerning the communication at issue, will be shortly available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ccMeetings.html>.

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,



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Aphrodite Smagadi  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

cc: John Damm Sørensen, Danish Openess Committee  
Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva