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25 February 2011

Mr. Jozsef Nagy  
Minister of Environment  
Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic  
Námestie. Ľ. Štúra 1  
812 35 Bratislava Slovakia

Dear Mr. Nagy,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Slovakia with provisions of the Convention in connection with the extension of the Mochovce nuclear power plant (Ref. ACCC/C/2009/41)**

At its thirty-first meeting (22-25 February 2011), the Committee considered your letter of 5 February 2011 addressed to the Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee and the secretariat.

When the Committee receives a communication questioning the interpretation given by the Party, and the communication, according to the criteria set out in the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties, is admissible, then it is not only the mandate of the Committee according to decision I/7, but also its duty to consider such interpretation, taking into account the degree of discretion left to the Party in interpreting and applying the relevant provision of the Convention.

In addition, the compliance review mechanism under the Convention is of non-confrontational, non-judicial and consultative nature (article 15 of the Convention). It is not a redress mechanism. The task of the Committee is to examine compliance in order to assist the Party concerned to comply with its obligations under the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Veli Koester  
Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Ms. Tatiana Plesníková, Department of the Coordination of the State Administration Performance, Ministry of Environment

Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Ms. Ella Behlyarova, Secretary to the Aarhus Convention

Ms. Aphrodite Smagadi, Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Mr. Klaus Kastenhofer, Director GLOBAL 2000/Friends of the Earth Austria, Austria

Mr. Thomas Alge, Oekobuero, Austria