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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
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18 December 2009

Ms. Galina VOLCHUGA
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
10, Kollektornaya St.
BY-220048 MINSK
Belarus
Fax: +375-17-200 55 83

Dear Ms. Volchuga,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Belarus with provisions of the Convention in connection with the proposed construction of a nuclear power plant (Ref. ACCC/C/2009/44)

On 10 December 2009, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received the above communication addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Belarus with provisions of the Convention concerning access to information and public participation in decision-making, as well as certain general provisions, in connection with the proposed construction of a nuclear power plant. The communication was submitted in accordance with the provisions of chapter VI of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties.

Please find enclosed a copy of the communication, which is being forwarded to you at the request of the Committee in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to decision I/7.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2009/44, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its twenty-sixth meeting (15-18 December 2009), has on a preliminary basis determined it to be admissible in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/7. A copy of the preliminary determination on admissibility is attached. Please note, however, that the Committee has not reached any conclusions with respect to the compliance issues referred to in the communication.

Having regard to paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7, you are kindly invited to submit to the Committee, as soon as possible but at the latest within five months of the date of this letter, any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the communication and describing any response that may have been made in the mean time.

Additionally, in order to facilitate further consideration of the communication, the Committee has requested the secretariat to inform you that in the coming weeks it may also invite you to address a number of specific questions.

The main documentation relating to the processing of the communication will be accessible at the following link: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/compliance/Compliance%20Committee/44TableBelarus.htm>

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates

Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

CC.

Mr. Ivan Narkevitch, Head of the Department of International Conventions and Agreements, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations having their Headquarters in Geneva

Mr. Thomas Alge, European ECO Forum Legal Focal Point, OEKOBUERO, Austria

Mr. Andriy Andrushevych, European ECO Forum Legal Focal Point for EECCA countries, Ukraine

Encs. Communication ACCC/C/2009/44 (cover and eight annexes)
 Preliminary determination on admissibility
 Datasheet on the communication