

**Tomáš Kažmierski,** Director Department of Environmental Policy Instruments National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention

> Prague, 14 March 2011 21447/ENV/11, 315/340/11

Re: Reaction to the communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the Czech Republic with provisions of the Convention in connection with access to justice in particular (Ref. ACCC/C/2010/50)

Dear Mr. Koester,

Following the letter dated 14 October 2010 in which the secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, Mrs. Aphrodite Smagadi, submitted to the Ministry of the Environment information about the communication concerning compliance by the Czech Republic, I am attaching hereby, in the capacity of the National Focal Point, an explanatory statement of the Czech Republic.

I am convinced that the legal aspects of the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Czech Republic fully respect the principles of the Convention. Nevertheless, I am also aware about the practical issues with implementation as mentioned in our latest national implementation report. The Czech Republic strives to improve the current status through awareness-raising activities, capacity building and support to NGOs active in this field.

Dear Mr. Koester, it is my sincere hope that the attached explanatory statement by the Czech Republic will be a helpful document in further work of the Compliance Committee.

Yours sincerely

Encs. Explanatory statement of the Czech Republic to the communication ACC/C/2010/50

CC: Mrs. Aphrodite Smagadi, Aarhus Convention Secretariat

Mr. Veit Koester
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Environment, Housing and Land Management Division
Bureau 332
Palais des Nations, Av. de la Paix 10
CH- 1211 GENEVA 10
Switzerland