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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Tel: +41 (0)22 917 3294 (direct)
+41 (0)22 917 1234 (Palais des Nations)
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 0123
E-mail: public.participation@unece.org
Ref: ACCC/C/2012/76

Palais des Nations, Room 348
CH-1211 GENEVA 10

30 October 2012

Hristo Stoev
Chief Expert
Environmental Policies Directorate
Strategies and Programmes Department
Ministry of Environment and Waters
Gladstone Str, 67
1000 Sofia
Bulgaria

Dear Mr. Stoev,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Bulgaria with the Convention in connection with the award of injunctive relief during the review of environmental permits (ACCC/C/2012/76)

On 25 July 2012, 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 Bulgaria with the access to justice provisions of the Convention in connection with the award of injunctive relief in certain cases concerning environmental permits (mainly relating to EU Directives on environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment and habitats). 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/2012/76, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. The main documentation relating to the communication will be shortly available on the Committee's web site at:
<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/pubcom.htm>.

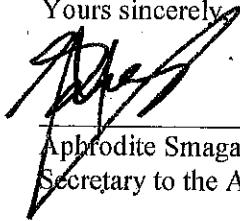
The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its

thirty-eighth meeting (25-28 September 2012), 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 (i.e. by 30 March 2013), any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the communication and describing any response that may have been made in the meantime.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Alexander Dountchev, Expert, Balkani Wildlife Society

Encs. Communication ACCC/C/2012/76 (including annexes)
Preliminary determination on admissibility
Datasheet on the communication