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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

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

Palais des Nations, Room 348
CH-1211 GENEVA 10

9 July 2013

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

Alexander Dountchev
Expert, Balkani Wildlife Society
67, Tsanko Tserkovski Str.,
Entr.3, Floor 2, apt. 3
Sofia 1421, Bulgaria

Dear Mr. Stoev, Dear Mr. Dountchev,

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

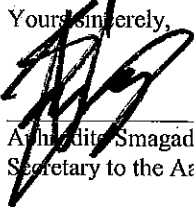
I refer to the discussion of the above referenced communication at the forty-first meeting of the Compliance Committee (Geneva, 25-28 June 2013). On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the communicant for participating in the discussion. The Committee also expressed its strong concern that the Party concerned had chosen not to participate in the discussion of the communication, which was the sole opportunity for the Committee to have heard from the communicant and the Party concerned in the presence of the other.

The report of the meeting, including information concerning the discussion on the communication at issue, will be shortly accessible at the following link <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ccMeetings.htm>.

Following the discussion of the communication, the Committee is requesting you to submit some additional information, as detailed in the questions annexed to the present letter. You are invited to reply to the questions as soon as you can, but no later than **20 August 2013**. In providing your responses, please address the questions of the Committee in a brief and explicit manner and provide the text of the relevant supporting documents in English. If you wish to react to the response provided by the other party, you may do so by **27 August 2013**.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,


Anindita 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

Annex
Communication ACCC/C/2012/76 Bulgaria
Questions to parties after the discussion at CC-41

To the communicant:

1) To substantiate your allegations, you have provided the Committee with copies of 30 court decisions in Bulgarian. Please provide English translations of the five out of the 30 decisions, which you deem to be the most representative.

2) Please provide a copy of the oral statement you made at CC-41.

To the Party concerned:

To substantiate its allegations, the communicant provided the Committee with copies of 30 court decisions which may entail a consistent practice and systemic issue of compliance. Could you comment on the apparent practice that seems to support the communicant's allegations? Would you be able to provide the Committee with significant number of examples that show that the practice followed is actually different?