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Ref: ACCC/C/2013/93

17 December 2013

Ms. Beate B. Ekeberg
Specialist Director
Ministry of Environment
P.O. Box 8103 Dep.
NO-0030 Oslo
Norway

Dear Ms. Ekeberg,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Norway
in connection with access to the legal assessment carried out prior to the adoption of
the Nature Diversity Act (ACCC/C/2013/93)**

On 26 June 2013, 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 Norway with the provisions of the Convention in connection with the alleged refusal by the Party concerned of the communicant's request for access to the legal assessment carried out prior to the adoption of the Nature Diversity Act. 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/2013/93, 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 forty-second meeting (24-27 September 2013), 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 **17 May 2014**), 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 require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr. Ole Kristian Fauchald

Encs: Communication ACCC/C/2013/93 (including annexes)
Preliminary determination on admissibility
Datasheet on the communication