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9 May 2012

Mr. Klaus Kastenhofer
Director GLOBAL 2000/Friends of the Earth Austria
Neustiftgasse 36, 1070 Wien

Dear Mr. Kastenhofer,

Re: Decision IV/9e of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

As you are aware, at its fourth session (Chisinau, 29 June-1 July 2011), the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention adopted decision IV/9e on compliance by Slovakia with its obligations under the Convention.

At its thirty-sixth meeting (27-30 March 2012), the Committee welcomed the comprehensive report submitted by the Party on 1 December 2011. It also noted the additional information provided by Oekobuero. In that respect, the Committee recalled that the Aarhus Convention compliance mechanism was not a remedy mechanism and requested that you provide a more precise evaluation and analysis of the Party's report.

At the same meeting, a representative of the Party concerned mentioned that they would provide translations of the annexes to their report shortly and suggested that experts could be present at the Committee's next meeting to provide clarification to the Committee, as needed. The Committee welcomed this initiative of the Party concerned and agreed that it would be useful, after receiving your comments, to discuss the follow-up with both parties at its thirty-seventh meeting (26-29 June 2012). Whether a discussion with representatives of the Party concerned and the communicant will take place at the Committee's thirty-seventh meeting depends in particular on whether the Committee receives the requested information well in advance of that meeting, i.e. no later than 5 June 2012.

If you require clarification of any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Ms. Tatiana Plesnikova, Ministry of the Environment, Slovakia
Mr. Thomas Alge, Oekobuero, Austria
Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva