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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

**Protocol on Water and Health
to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes
- Secretariat -**

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19 December 2014

Dear Ms. Vicanovic,

At its third session (Oslo, 25–27 November 2013), the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health supported the decision of the Compliance Committee that it may, based on its assessment of the results of the second reporting exercise under the Protocol or other information available to the Committee, invite a Party or a small group of Parties having identical or almost identical implementation problems to engage in a Consultation Process (see enclosed terms of reference).

At its tenth meeting (Geneva, 25 November 2014), having discussed various possible candidates for the Consultation Process, the Committee decided, based on the criteria outlined in the report of the meeting, to invite Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina (as an observer) and Croatia to engage in the Process.

The objective of the Consultation Process is to assist Parties in implementing the provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health. It consists of advice and assistance, which may vary depending on the specific conditions and needs of the Party involved. It can address scientific, technical, legal and administrative issues. The Consultation Process is not a compliance review procedure. Hence, it is not of an inquisitive nature and its objective is not to establish whether a Party is non-compliant. The procedure is guided by the same principles guiding the work of the Compliance Committee, i.e., that it be simple, facilitative, non-adversarial and cooperative.


Ms. Jelena Vicanovic
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The Consultation Process is to be held at the twelfth meeting of the Compliance Committee (scheduled for October 2015).

I would encourage your country to use this opportunity to engage in a constructive discussion on the implementation of the Protocol. I would appreciate receiving your response to the invitation by 1 February 2015.

Looking forward to your response, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Bonvoisin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'N'.

Nicholas Bonvoisin
Co-Secretary to the Protocol on Water and Health

Enclosure: Terms of Reference of the Consultation Process, as amended by the Committee at its tenth meeting