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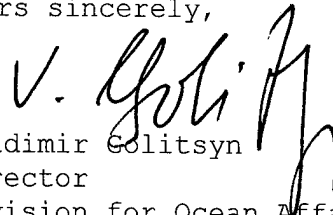
Dear Ms. Bjurstrøm,

I wish to refer to your letter dated 16 June 2006 regarding the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), by which you transmitted the Almaty Guidelines and the "Questionnaire for consultation process on issues addressed by the Aarhus Convention's Almaty Guidelines".

We have taken due note of the Almaty Guidelines, the questionnaire as well as the Task Force and the eventual international workshop mentioned in your letter.

Regrettably, the Division is not in a position to participate at this stage in the consultation process or reply to the questionnaire. We are, however, informing Member States of the United Nations, including States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its Implementing Agreements, about the Aarhus Convention and on the activities being undertaken by its States Parties, through the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea to be issued in mid-October 2006 for the 61st session of the General Assembly.

Yours sincerely,



Vladimir Golitsyn  
Director  
Division for Ocean Affairs  
and the Law of the Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs

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