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14 January 2011

Ms. Lieselotte Feldmann
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forests, Environment
and Water Management
General Environmental Policy Dept./EU affairs environment
Stubenbastei 5
1010 Vienna, Austria

Mr. Markus Piringer
Mr. Thomas Alge
OEKOBUERO - Coordination office of Austrian Environmental Organisations
Volksgartenstrasse 1
1010 Vienna, Austria

Dear Ms. Feldman,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Austria with provisions of the Convention in connection with access to justice in environmental matters in general (Ref. ACCC/C/2010/48)

On behalf of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, I would like to thank the participants in the discussion of the above referenced communication at the thirtieth meeting of the Compliance Committee (Geneva, 14-17 December 2010).

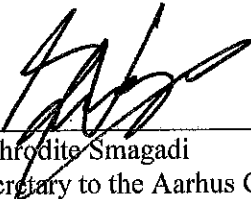
The advance unedited copy of the report of the meeting, including information concerning the discussion on the communication at issue, will be shortly accessible at the following link
<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ccMeetings.htm>.

You may recall that during the discussion of the communication, the Committee requested 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 15 February 2011. In providing your response, please address the questions of the Committee in a brief and explicit manner and provide the text of the relevant legislative and/or regulatory provisions in English.

The Compliance Committee hopes to be able to complete the preparation of its draft findings with regard to the communication at its thirty-second meeting (Geneva, 11-14 April 2011), after which the draft findings will be circulated for comment to the parties concerned.

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

Yours sincerely,



Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations Office and specialized institutions in Geneva

Encl: Annex - Questions to the parties

Annex – Questions to the parties

(the communicant and the Party concerned are invited to coordinate and provide a common answer to the questions of the Committee)

1. Please provide a clear description on how the regular, simplified and “de facto” environmental impact procedures work at the federal and provincial level and explain how they relate to the standing criteria, as provided for in article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention. (During the discussion at the thirtieth meeting, it was suggested that the Party concerned prepares the first draft of the response and the communicant comments/adds, with a view to submitting a common answer to the Committee).

2. Please provide a list of the procedures available under article 9, paragraph 3, of the Convention and indicate standing criteria for NGOs in this regard. (During the discussion at the thirtieth meeting, it was suggested that the communicant prepares the response and the Party concerned comments/adds, with a view to submitting a common answer to the Committee).