

4 February 2020

Ms. Cătălina Rădulescu  
Bankwatch Romania  
Bucharest, Romania

Dear Ms. Rădulescu,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Romania with article 6 and 9 of the Convention with respect to the extension of lignite quarries in Gorj County (ACCC/C/2016/140)**

I write to inform you that the Committee proposes to hold a hearing to discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2016/140 at its sixty-sixth meeting to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 9-13 March 2020.

The hearing of the above communication is scheduled for **Thursday, 12 March 2020**, starting at 10:30 am and concluding by 4.30 pm.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both parties are entitled to participate in the hearing on the subject matter of the communication, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee.

According to the Committee's normal practice, the hearing of the communication, which will be held in open session, will be interspersed with at least one closed session in which the Committee will begin the process of preparing draft findings. It is envisaged that the first part of the hearing in open session will take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair;
- opening of the hearing by the curator for the case (10-15 minutes);
- concise presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals (10-15 minutes each);
- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the communicant (30 minutes);
- comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair (10 minutes);
- final comments by the communicant (5-10 minutes);
- final comments by the Party concerned (5-10 minutes).

Further details concerning the timetable for the hearing will be provided in the provisional timeline for the meeting to be published nearer the time on the webpage for the sixty-sixth meeting, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52990>.

During the second part of the hearing (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to you or the Party concerned, or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached. In accordance with its usual practice, the Committee may also invite the Party concerned to indicate whether, should the Committee ultimately find the Party to be in non-compliance, it would agree to the Committee making its recommendations to it directly, in accordance with paragraph 36(b) of the annex to decision I/7.

I would be grateful if you would confirm before **Thursday, 13 February 2020** that a representative of the communicant will participate in the hearing. All participants are encouraged to cover their own costs as far as possible, but in case you would require financial support to cover travel and subsistence costs for one representative in order to be represented at the meeting, please notify me by return and in any case no later than **13 February**. Thereafter, each participant wishing to attend the meeting should register online at <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=z7N5XD> before **2 March 2020**.

Finally, I would like to inform you that I will be writing again shortly enclosing questions from the Committee for the written reply of the Party concerned and communicant in advance of the hearing.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Fiona Marshall  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva  
Ms. Dorina Mocanu, Ministry of Environment, Romania