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23 April 2010

Ms. Evelina Daugirdaitė  
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention  
Chief Desk Officer  
Public Information Division  
Ministry of Environment  
4/9, A. Jaksto Str.  
LT-01105 Vilnius  
Lithuania

Dear Ms. Daugirdaitė,

**Re: Decision III/6d of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention concerning compliance by Lithuania with its obligations under the Convention**

Hereby I would like to draw your attention to decision III/6d adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention at its third session on 13 June 2008 in Riga, Latvia, concerning compliance by Lithuania with its obligations under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.12).

At its twenty-seventh meeting, the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee expressed its appreciation to Lithuania for the action plan and the clarification sent within the set deadline. The Committee also asked the secretariat to invite you to address some additional points, as detailed in the annex to this letter, no later than 30 November 2010. The Committee will then review the progress made by Lithuania at its thirtieth meeting (14-17 December 2010) and prepare recommendations for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session in summer 2011.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat ([public.participation@unece.org](mailto:public.participation@unece.org)) if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Aphrodite Smagadi  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

## Annex – Questions from the Compliance Committee

1. In Lithuania, like in other countries in the region, the developer is responsible for public participation. The Committee recognizes the diversity of legal systems, but with regard to public participation, it strongly recommends that public authorities assume a special role.

Specifically, the Committee recalls its recommendations endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties in decision III/6d, according to which measures should be taken by the Government of Lithuania to ensure that there is a clear responsibility on the relevant public authorities to ensure opportunities for public participation, as required under the Convention, including for making available relevant information and for collecting comments (see para. 2(c) of the decision); and that for each decision-making procedure covered by article 6, a public authority is designated from which relevant information can be obtained by the public and to which comments or questions can be submitted (see para. 2(f) of the decision).

Please explain how the new and amended measures presented in your action plan specifically address this issue.

2. The Committee recalls its recommendation endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties in decision III/6d, according to which measures should be taken by the Government of Lithuania to ensure that there are reasonable time frames for different phases of public participation, taking into account the stage of decision-making as well as the nature, size and complexity of proposed activities.

Please clarify what are the time-frames for public participation under the new Lithuanian legislation, as described in your action plan, for small-, medium- and large-scale activities.

3. Please also address the following points:

- a. Report when measures 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 (as listed in the action plan) will be adopted; and/or whether there are any changes on the time limits for their implementation.
- b. Provide the English or Russian translation, if any, of the measures that have already been adopted, namely measure 2, 4 and 13 of the action plan; and of those measures that will be adopted until November 2010.