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UNITED NATIONS

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE**

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25 September 2009

Attn. Ms. Victoria Akopova
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention
Ministry of Nature Protection
15 Bitarap Turkmenistan str.
Ashgabad 744000
Turkmenistan
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Dear Ms. Akopova,

Re: Follow up to decision III/6e of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention concerning compliance by Turkmenistan with its obligations under the Convention

I refer to the letter from Mr. Ján Kubiš, the UNECE Executive Secretary, to His Excellency, President Berdimuhamedov, dated 16 April 2009 conveying the findings of the Compliance Committee at its twenty-third meeting in respect of the Government of Turkmenistan.

As you may recall, in these findings the Committee found that Turkmenistan had failed to communicate, by 1 January 2009 or since, that it had taken measures to implement the conditions set out in paragraph 5 of decision III/6e (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.13). In light of the Committee's findings, the caution issued by the Meeting of the Parties through that decision became effective on 1 May 2009.

In paragraph 5 of its findings, the Committee noted that the Meeting of the Parties, through paragraph 6 of decision III/6e, invited the Government of Turkmenistan to submit to the Committee periodically, namely in November 2008, November 2009 and November 2010, detailed information on further progress in implementing the measures referred to in paragraph 5 of decision III/6e.

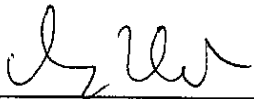
The Committee looks forward to receiving detailed information on further progress by the Government of Turkmenistan to implement the measures referred to in paragraph 5 of decision III/6e by November 2009.

Furthermore, in paragraphs 8 to 10 of its findings, the Committee welcomed the Government of Turkmenistan's invitation to members of the Committee to visit Turkmenistan and also welcomed the Government's willingness to take part in joint projects with the UNECE to strengthen Turkmenistan's capacity to implement the Convention. The Committee also expressed its willingness, within available resources, to work with the Government to assist it in ensuring that its new legislation, where relevant to the Aarhus Convention, will be in compliance with Turkmenistan's obligations under the Convention.

The Committee has accordingly asked me to write to you to follow up on the Government of Turkmenistan's invitation to the members of the Committee to visit Turkmenistan. The Committee noted that such a mission could allow the possibility to see what work might be undertaken by the Government prior to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties that might enable the Committee to make a recommendation to the Parties that the caution issued through paragraph 5 of decision III/6e (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.13) should be lifted.

We would be grateful to hear from you with further details as to possible arrangements for the members of the Committee to visit Turkmenistan at your earliest convenience. We also look forward to receiving the progress report on further progress by November 2009.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates

Secretary, Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters