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UNITED NATIONS

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22 December 2009

Attn. Ms. Victoria Akopova
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention
Ministry of Nature Protection
15 Bitarap Turkmenistan str.
Ashgabad 744000
Turkmenistan
Fax: + 9 93 12 39 31 84

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

As you are aware, at its twenty-sixth meeting (15-18 December 2009), the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee reviewed the information provided by the Government of Turkmenistan on progress in implementing decision III/6e of the Meeting of the Parties.

The Committee took note of the report provided by the Government of Turkmenistan dated 6 November 2009 and its subsequent email of 9 December 2009 in response to the secretariat's letter of 25 November 2009 requesting more detailed information on concrete proposals for changes to the Act of Public Associations referred to in the report.

The Committee also took note of an email received from European ECO Forum dated 18 December 2009, and an oral statement made in open session by Earthjustice regarding the current situation for environmental non-governmental organizations in Turkmenistan. European ECO Forum's email of 18 December 2009 is on our website at http://unece.org/env/pp/compliance/MoP3decisions/Turkmenistan/correspondence/FrECOForumReDecisionIII6e_17Dec2009.pdf.

The Committee welcomed the progress that appeared to have been made towards amending the Act on Public Associations in accordance with the decision III/6e as well as the other activities referred to in the Government's report.

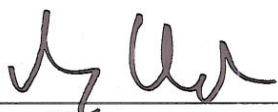
The Committee asked the secretariat to write to you to request you to send the full text of the draft revised Act on Public Associations in both Turkmen and Russian languages, and if possible, an English language translation.

The Committee would be grateful to receive the draft revised Act on Public Associations by 1 February 2010 to enable it to review the draft legislation in advance of its twenty-seventh meeting.

The Committee welcomed the Government's confirmation of its previous invitation to host a visit by the Committee to review progress in the implementation of the Convention and requested the secretariat to liaise with you concerning the possible arrangements for such a visit. The secretariat will write to you separately in the New Year concerning this matter.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Wates', written over a horizontal line.

Jeremy Wates

Secretary

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