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8 August 2012

Ms. Aida Iskoyan
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention
Ministry of Nature Protection
Government Building 3, Republic Square
375010 Yerevan, Armenia

Dear Ms. Iskoyan,

Re: Decision IV/9a of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

As you are aware, at its fourth session (Chisinau, 29 June-1 July 2011), the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention adopted decision IV/9a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention.

At its thirty-seventh meeting (26-29 June 2012), the Committee took note of the action plan you submitted on 12 April 2012. It also recalled that it had requested you to submit an English or at least a Russian translation of the draft environmental impact assessment law. On 22 May and 18 June 2012, you had informed the Committee that since the draft law "On changes and addendums to the Law of the Republic of Armenia on environmental impact expertize" had been rejected by the President of Armenia, a new draft was being prepared by the Working Group established by the Minister of Nature Protection and led by the first Deputy Minister of Nature Protection. Once finalized, the new draft would be forwarded to the Interagency Commission on Implementing the Aarhus Convention and then circulated to other stakeholders. Due to that early stage of the process, you were not able to provide a translation of the draft in the English or Russian language; and you reassured the Committee that you would keep it informed about the process.

You are now requested to report to the Committee on the progress of the legislative process as soon as possible, but not later than November 2012. You are also requested to report on how the elements of paragraph 4 of decision IV/9a are addressed in the draft law.

The Committee agreed that it would review the materials received in greater detail at its thirty-ninth meeting (Geneva, 11-14 December 2012).

If you require clarification of any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Amalia Kostanyan, Chairperson, Center for Regional Development/Transparency International Armenia
Varuzhan Hochtanyan, Executive Director, "Transparency International Anti-corruption Center" Armenia
Hrayr Savzyan, Executive Director, "Ecodar", Armenia
Arthur Sakunts, Chair, "Helsinki Citizens' Assembly of Vanadzor", Armenia
Sona Ayvazyan, Environmental Policy Expert, Armenia
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other international
organizations in Geneva