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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF GEORGIA

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To: Mr. Jeremy Wates

Secretary

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

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Georgia with provisions of the Convention in concerning decision-making on long-term licensees for forest resource use (Ref.ACCC/C/2008/35)

Dear Mr. Wates,

In response to your letter of 13 May, 2009, we are sending the required information regarding the following questions:

1. Is a long-term forest use license under Georgian law a permit which gives a person the right to start felling timber (i.e. cutting wood), or are additional permit(s) required?

Answer:

According to the Statute on Rules and Provisions of Forest Use License (#132 Resolution of Government of Georgia, August, 2005), a long-term forest use license gives a person (licentiate) the right to start felling timber. Any additional permit is not required.

2. Is the long term forest use permit a general or a special permit?

Answer:

According to the Article 2, Paragraph 1 of Resolution on Rules and Provisions of Forest Use License (Resolution of Government of Georgia, #132; August, 2005), a general forest use license is a document comprising special licenses on hunting farm (hunting area) and timber production. According to the Paragraph 2 of the same article, for carrying out of an activity under one special license, obtaining a general license is not required.

According to the Article 4, Paragraph 4 of the same resolution, Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia publishes information regarding the holding an auction on forest use license in central press a month in advance.