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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF GEORGIA

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To: Ms. Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary
Compliance Committee
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 Ms. Smagadi,

In response to your letter dated May 12, 2010, first of all, we would like to thank the Compliance Committee to the Aarhus Convention for its comprehensive and objective findings regarding the communication ACCC/C/2008/35.

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, I would like to mention that we fully agree with the draft findings. Hereby, as it is requested by the Secretariat, we are providing our comments only to specify some legislative issues:

- 1. In the Article 26 of the draft findings, the following formulation which states that the Party concerned "argues that the Law on Licenses and Permits of 2005 that tacitly abolished the 1996 Environmental Permit Law, Regulation No. 132 and the general provisions of the Administrative Code on public participation" is not correct. This issue was clarified in our oral and written submissions to the Compliance Committee, where it has been declared that only 1996 Environmental Permit Law was abolished. Hereby, it would be mentioned as well that this particular issue is dully clarified in other articles of the draft findings;
- 2. The arguments stated in the last sentence of the Article 41 of the draft findings, unfortunately, are unclear and, accordingly, it is quite difficult to make any comments on it. Despite this fact, I would like to state that the argumentations on the same topic are different in the other articles of the draft findings;