

3. Regarding the recommendation of the Compliance Committee, the following should be clarified: as you were aware from our written and oral statements, development of the Environmental Code was under way. The comments on this document from all the relevant governmental institutions have been made and currently, according to the Georgian legislation, the draft Environmental Code is at the Ministry of Justice for its final conclusion. After a positive conclusion by the Ministry of Justice, the draft document will be introduced to the Government of Georgia for its consideration. Subsequently, in case of its approval, the draft Environmental Code will be submitted to the Parliament of Georgia for its final adoption. I would like to mention once again that the draft Environmental Code ensures **adequate, timely and affective** public participation in decision-making procedures of any licensees, including the long-term licensees for forest resource use, at **the early stage**, when the options are open. In case the Compliance Committee has the interest, we are ready to provide the information on final results as soon as legislative procedure is completed.

Based on the abovementioned, it is obvious that government of Georgia has already been made particular steps towards the implementation of the objective recommendation of the Compliance Committee.

Let me thank you once again for your constructive cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George Zedginidze', written over the typed name.

George Zedginidze  
Deputy Minister