



NATIONS UNIES
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE
POUR L'EUROPE

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

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28 October 2009

Ms. Nino GOKHELASHVILI
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention
Division of International Relations
Department of Sustainable Development
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources
6 Gulua Street
Tbilisi 0114
Georgia

Fax: + 995 32 72 72 23

Dear Ms. Gokhelashvili,

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

With reference to our letter of 13 May 2009 concerning the above communication, we would like to inform you that at its twenty-fifth meeting (22-25 September 2009), the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee decided that the substance of communication ACCC/C/2008/35 would be considered at the Committee's twenty-sixth meeting, to be held on 15-18 December 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The discussion is currently scheduled on Tuesday 15 December 2009. It will start at 10.30 am and is expected to conclude no later than 5 pm.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both you and the communicant are entitled to participate in the discussion on the subject matter of the communication, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee.

According to the Committee's normal practice, the discussion on the communication, which will be held in open session, will be interspersed with at least one closed session in which the Committee will begin the process of preparing draft findings. It is envisaged that the first part of the discussion in open session will take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair;
- opening of the discussion by the curator for the case;

- presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals;
 - questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the communicant;
 - comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair;
 - final comments by the communicant;
 - final comments by the Party concerned.
- During the second part of the discussion (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to you or the communicant, or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached. Further details concerning the timetable for the discussions during the day will be provided nearer the time.

Should you or any other your representative, as appropriate, wish to attend the meeting, the attached registration form should be completed for each participant and sent to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, attention of Ms. Maricar de la Cruz (fax: +41 22 917 0634), by 1 December 2009. All participants are encouraged to cover their own costs as far as possible, but in case you would require financial support to cover travel and subsistence costs in order to be represented at the meeting, please notify the secretariat as soon as possible and in any case no later than 10 November 2009.

The Committee has indicated that the meeting should not be used as an occasion to introduce substantial amounts of information that could or should have been provided to it at an earlier stage, unless this is unavoidable (e.g. because it concerns very recent developments). Should you wish to present any (further) substantial written material related to the matter, you should take into account that where such information is received less than two weeks before the scheduled meeting, it is doubtful whether the Committee would be able to take it into consideration when it is discussing the matter, even where the information is provided in English.

We take this opportunity to remind you that with your letter dated 8 October 2009, we received only your reply to the specific questions raised by the Committee. However, according to paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties on review of compliance, a Party is required to submit to the Compliance Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter raised in the communication and describing any response that it may have made to a communication. The Committee would therefore appreciate to receive at your earliest convenience, but no later than 26 November 2009, your comments on the allegations raised by the communicant, if any.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates
Secretary

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

Cc: Nana Janashia, Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)

Encs. Registration form for the 26th meeting of the Compliance Committee