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UNITED NATIONS

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10 November 2011

Ms. Nelly Nadyalka Ilieva
Senior Expert
Strategy, Accession Programs and Projects
Ministry of Environment and Waters
Gladstone Str. 67
BG-1000 Sofia
Bulgaria

Dear Ms. Ilieva,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Bulgaria with provisions of the Convention in connection with restricted access to review procedures in spatial planning (Ref. ACCC/C/2011/58)

We are writing to inform you that at its thirty-fourth meeting (20-23 September 2011), the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee decided to discuss the abovenamed communication at its thirty-fifth meeting, to be held on 13-16 December 2011 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The discussion of the above communication is scheduled for **Tuesday, 13 December 2011, starting at 11 am and concluding by 5 pm.** In order to guide the discussion, some questions upon which the Committee might wish the discussion to particularly focus are **enclosed**. Interpretation in English and Russian will be available.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both parties 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 of 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;
- concise presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals (ten minutes each);
- 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 Party concerned, 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.

You, or your representative(s), are cordially invited to attend the meeting to take part in the discussion of the abovenamed communication. The attached registration form should be completed for each participant and sent to the UNECE, attention of Ms. Maricar de la Cruz (public.participation@unece.org), by **29 November 2011**. All participants are encouraged to cover their own costs as far as possible.

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.

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

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall

Acting Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

- cc: Mr. Alexander Dountchev, Expert, Balkani Wildlife Society
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva
- enc: Registration form for the thirty-fifth meeting of the Compliance Committee
List of questions for the discussion