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24 August 2012

Mr. Hristo Stoev
Chief Expert, Environmental Policies Directorate
Strategies and Programmes Department
Ministry of Environment and Waters
Gladstone Str, 67
BG-1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

Dear Mr. Stoev,

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)

Please find enclosed the draft findings of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee regarding communication ACCC/C/2011/58 (Bulgaria). At its thirty-seventh meeting (Geneva, 26-29 June 2012), the Committee completed its draft findings in closed session, with the exception of a few minor points, which were then finalized by using the electronic decision-making procedure.

The draft findings are now forwarded at the request of the Committee for your consideration and possible comments pursuant to paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee intends to finalize and adopt the findings at its thirty-eighth meeting (Geneva, 25-28 September 2012). Hence, we would be grateful if you would provide any comments by **21 September 2012**. In finalizing the findings, the Committee will take into account any comments you submit on the draft by the set deadline.

The text has been drafted on the assumption that your Government agrees with the Committee making recommendations in accordance with paragraphs 36 (b) and 37 (b) of the annex to decision I/7. If this is not the case, please indicate this in your reply. The Committee considers that the making of recommendations directly to the Party concerned during the intersessional period, coupled with timely action by the Party to implement such recommendations, would enable the matters to be resolved in the most expeditious way.

Should you have any questions with regard to the procedure, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,


Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Alexander Dountchev, Balkani Wildlife Society, Bulgaria
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Enc: Draft findings on communication ACCC/C/2011/58