

23 March 2020

Ms. Nusic
Federal Ministry for Environment and Tourism
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dear Ms. Nusic,

Re: Preliminary determination of admissibility of communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding access to justice to challenge environmental permits (ACCC/C/2020/177)

On 26 January 2020, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received the above communication from Association “Aarhus Center in BiH” and Center for Ecology and Energy – Aarhus Center Tuzla, addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Bosnia and Herzegovina with articles 2(5), 3(9) and 9(2) of the Convention with respect to the refusal of access to justice on the basis of an environmental organization’s seat of registration. The communication was submitted in accordance with the provisions of chapter VI of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2020/177, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. All documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee’s web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/com.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its sixty-sixth meeting (Geneva, 9-13 March 2020), has on a preliminary basis determined it to be admissible in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/7. A copy of the preliminary determination on admissibility is attached. Please note, however, that the Committee has not reached any conclusions with respect to the compliance issues referred to in the communication.

Having regard to paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7, you are kindly invited to submit to the Committee, as soon as possible but at the latest within five months of the date of this letter (i.e. by **23 August 2020**), any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the communication and describing any response that may have been made in the meantime.

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

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

- Cc: Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Ms. Kresevljakovic and Mr. Zisko, representatives of the communicants of communication
ACCC/C/2020/177
- Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility