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May 13, 2013

Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee
Economic Commission for Europe
Environment, Housing and Land
Management Division
Bureau 348
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Re: Decision IV/9f of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

After the Decision IV/9f on compliance by Spain with its obligations under the Convention, as adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Chisinau June-July 2011), endorsed the findings of the Committee, our association continued working to try to help Spain to fulfil what it established.

We believe that in order to inform you of our efforts, the most practical is to summarize the communications we have done so far.

1. Our association learned about that the government had drafted a bill to amend the Legal Aid Act, considering that it was an excellent opportunity to make changes that would allow fulfilling the provisions of the Decision IV/9f. On December 3, 2012, we referred a letter to the Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention. Check in order number 2012002040006485 (See Annex 1). This document was also sent via email.
2. On December 14, 2012, we received acknowledgment to the document mentioned in item 1, in which we were informed that the Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention proceeded to give notice to the Ministry of Justice.
3. On January 11, 2013, the Ministry of Justice published the Draft Law on Free Legal Aid. In it, they had not made any changes to enable Spain to fulfil with what is determined in the Decision IV/9f, so, on January 16, 2013, we referred

a letter by email to the Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention communicating our surprise. (See Annex 2)

4. On January 17, 2013, we received an email in reply to the mentioned in item 3 in which the Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention informed us that it was forwarded to the Ministry of Justice.
5. On January 29, 2013, we received an email sent by the Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention in which she communicated to us the opinion of the Ministry of Justice on the letters sent by our association.
6. Whereas the response of the Ministry of Justice lacked the minimum legal rigor, on January 29, 2013, in reply to the mail mentioned in item 5, we sent some allegations. (See Annex 3).
7. On February 4, 2013, we received an email sent by the Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention in which she informed us that we must address the documents to Technical Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice.
8. On January 29, 2013, we referred to the Ministry of Justice a document to which we attached all the arguments we had done so far. (See Annex 4)

Until now we have not received a reply to any of the writings referred with our allegations. We consider the behavior demonstrated by Spain shows an obvious disrespect for our work, since it is not worthy to answer our allegations.

However, our association keep trying collaborating for the Aarhus Convention principles are a reality in Spain.

In Almendralejo, May 13, 2013

The President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Félix Lorenzo Donoso', is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Félix Lorenzo Donoso

Plataforma Contra la Contaminación de Almendralejo