

2 July 2020

Ms. Daniela Pineta  
Ministry of Environment  
Bucharest, Romania

Ms. Cătălina Rădulescu  
Bankwatch Romania  
Bucharest, Romania

Dear Ms. Pineta,  
Dear Ms. Rădulescu,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Romania with article 6 and 9 of the Convention with respect to the extension of lignite quarries in Gorj County (ACCC/C/2016/140)**

I write to confirm that the Committee will hold the hearing to discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2016/140 at its sixty-seventh meeting to be held virtually next week from 6-10 July 2020. The hearing of the above communication is scheduled for **Thursday, 9 July 2020**, starting at 10:30 am and concluding by 4.30 pm. The hearing will be conducted through webex.

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 hearing 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 hearing 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 hearing in open session will take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair;
- opening of the hearing by the curator for the case (10-15 minutes);
- concise presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals (10-15 minutes each);
- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the communicant (30 minutes);
- comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair (10 minutes);
- final comments by the communicant (5-10 minutes);
- final comments by the Party concerned (5-10 minutes).

Further details concerning the timetable for the hearing are contained in the provisional timeline for the meeting which is available on the webpage for the sixty-seventh meeting, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53237>.

During the second part of the hearing (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to the Party concerned and the communicant, or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached. In accordance with its usual practice, the Committee may also invite the Party concerned to indicate whether, should the Committee ultimately find the Party to be in non-compliance, it would agree to the Committee making its recommendations to it directly, in accordance with paragraph 36(b) of the annex to decision I/7.

I would be grateful if you would provide the secretariat at [aarhus.compliance@un.org](mailto:aarhus.compliance@un.org) by **next Monday, 6 July 2020**, with the names and email addresses of all persons that will represent the Party concerned and the communicant during the hearing. We will thereafter send the technical details to join the virtual hearing to all such persons.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Fiona Marshall  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva