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Ref: ACCC/C/2016/140

6 December 2016

Ms. Dorina Mocanu
General Director
General Directorate for Impact Assessment and Pollution Control
Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests
Romania

Ms. Camelia Hintea
Counsellor for Impact Assessment
Unit for Impact Assessment
General Directorate for Impact Assessment and Pollution Control
Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests
Romania

Dear Ms. Mocanu, dear Ms. Hintea,

**Re: Preliminary determination of admissibility of 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)**

On 27 July 2016, 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 addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Romania with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged failure to ensure adequate public participation and access to justice in the context of the extension of various lignite quarries in Gorj County. 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/2016/140, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. The main documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee's web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/pubcom.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its forty-fourth meeting (27-30 September 2016), 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 **6 May 2017**), 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 Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Ms. Cătălina Rădulescu, representative of the Communicant

Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility