Dear Ms. Iskoyan,

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

At its fortieth meeting (Geneva, 25-28 March 2013), the Committee reviewed the implementation of decision IV/9a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention.

The Committee took note of the report you submitted on 5 February 2013, which had initially been due in November 2012. The Committee noted with regret that you had submitted your report late, but in particular lamented the very slow progress with regard to the enactment of the new Environmental Impact Assessment Law, which was expected to implement decision III/6a of the Meeting of the Parties (2008) and its subsequent decision IV/9a (2011). Moreover, the report was very vague.

The Committee would like to draw your attention to the extremely slow legislative process during the past five years and invites you to present further details about the law.

Please provide your response, including further details about the law and a timeline for its adoption, by 1 September 2013. The Committee will review the situation in detail at its forty-second meeting (Geneva, 24-27 September 2013).

The Committee also requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of a videoconference with a representative of the Party concerned and interested observers during its forty-second meeting, either on 26 or 27 September 2013. Kindly confirm your availability on these dates, so that the secretariat can then proceed with the necessary administrative arrangements. Further to your more elaborated written submissions and the discussion preliminarily scheduled to take place on 26 or 27 September 2013, the Committee will start considering its recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session on the matter.

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

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Asplundie Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee
Amalia Kostanyan, Chairperson, Center for Regional Development/Transparency International, Armenia
Varuzhan Hkotanyan, Executive Director, “Transparency International Anti-corruption Center”, Armenia
Hrany Savzyan, Executive Director, “Ecodar”, Armenia
Arthur Sakunts, Chair, “Helsinki Citizens Assembly of Vanadzor”, Armenia
Sona Ayvazyan, Environmental Policy Expert, Armenia