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UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

**Protocol on Water and Health  
to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary  
Watercourses and International Lakes  
- Secretariat -**

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19 December 2014

Dear Mr. Simas,

I am writing to you in connection with the obligation of Portugal to report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, in accordance with its article 7.

At its tenth meeting (Geneva, 25 November 2014), the Protocol's Compliance Committee considered that, based on paragraph 11 (c), read in conjunction with paragraph 12, of the Compliance Procedure (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3, decision I/2, annex), the Committee had the competence not only to examine general issues of compliance but also to take appropriate action in case of possible non-compliance by a specific Party with the obligation to report under the Protocol.

As Portugal has failed to submit its national summary report within the second reporting exercise, the Committee decided, within its competence as mentioned above, to initiate a case regarding possible non-compliance by your country with the obligation to report. The Committee expects to deliberate the case and proceed with drafting findings, measures and recommendations, as appropriate, at its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 24–25 March 2015).

Mr. Luis Simas  
Director, Department of Water Quality  
Regulatory Authority of Water and Waste Services  
Lisboa  
Portugal


In order to define on a provisional basis a procedure for the Committee to address the failure of Parties to report, the Committee decided to apply, mutatis mutandis, the relevant rules of the Compliance Procedure, specifically the deadline for a reply of three months indicated in paragraph 14 and the principles set out in paragraphs 20–22 and 30–32 of the Compliance Procedure, taking into account that any procedure should be governed by the spirit of the compliance mechanism under the Protocol.

I therefore invite your country to submit any reply, written explanations or statements clarifying the matter as well as supporting information to the joint secretariat within three months.

According to the principle established in paragraph 30 of the Compliance Procedure, Portugal is entitled to participate in the discussions of the Committee at its eleventh meeting, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures and recommendations. Should you or any other representatives, as appropriate, wish to attend the meeting, please register online on the meeting website ([www.unece.org/env/water/11th\\_compliance\\_committee\\_2015.html](http://www.unece.org/env/water/11th_compliance_committee_2015.html)).

Looking forward to your response, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Bonvoisin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Nicholas Bonvoisin  
Co-Secretary to the Protocol on Water and Health