



**NATIONS UNIES**  
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE  
POUR L'EUROPE

**ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ**  
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

**UNITED NATIONS**  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

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16 December 2005

Attn. Ms. Gentiana Hasko  
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention  
Director for Communication and Foreign Relations  
Ministry of the Environment  
Rruga e Durrësit, No.27, Tirana/Albania  
Fax: +355 4 270627

Dear Ms. Hasko,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning  
a proposed industrial park in Vlora (Ref. ACCC/C/2005/12)**

As you are aware, the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee had a discussion on the above communication at its tenth meeting (5-7 December 2005). The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the outcome of that discussion and to request further information.

Before proceeding to discuss the substance of the communication the Committee considered whether it could confirm its preliminary determination on admissibility in light of information requested by it from the communicant and the Party concerned (ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2005/4, para. 24). The Committee concluded that the information that it had received from the Party concerned and the communicant was not sufficient for it to determine, in the light of paragraph 21 of the annex to decision I/7, whether or not adequate use of remedies had been made to justify the Committee proceeding with the substantive review of the communication. The Committee did, however note that some of the information available to it indicated possible problems with compliance. It therefore agreed to delay making the final determination on admissibility and to ask the communicant and the Party concerned to clarify specific issues. The Committee regretted the fact that the Government of Albania had chosen not to be represented in the meeting, despite financial support for its participation having been offered.

Having considered the relevant sections of the Albanian national implementation report and the information provided in your response under paragraph 23 of decision I/7, the Committee has requested the secretariat to invite you to provide more detailed information on the following points:

1. Please provide the Committee with the dates and the texts of the decisions of the public authorities on the thermal generation facility and on the industrial park, including English translations of the key documents or parts of documents.

2. Is the thermal generation facility an integral component of the industrial park project?
3. Is the decision on the industrial park subject to an environmental assessment procedure?
4. Was the procedure for deciding on the location of an industrial park subject to an evaluation of alternative locations and / or subject to public participation procedure? If so, was this decision made with proper public participation (including early and adequate notification of public and public consultations) and was an evaluation of alternative locations carried out?
5. With regard to public meetings regarding thermal generation facility, how the process of notification took place for (a) residents, (b) NGOs, (c) other stakeholders? When and where were the notices of the public meetings published? Had the communicant or another individual member or member organization of the Alliance for the Protection of the Vlorë Gulf been notified about public meetings? Please include a summary of the key elements of the notification in English.
6. Did the NGOs that did participate make any comments, and if so, how were these taken into account in the final decision?
7. Please provide the lists of participants of the public meetings.

The Committee aims to make a decision on the matter using its e-mail decision-making procedure in the intersessional period with a view to continuing its discussions on the substance of the communication, if appropriate, at its next meeting (29-31 March 2006, Geneva). We would therefore like to ask you to provide your response by 15 January 2006.

The Committee has also invited the communicant to provide some additional information. The letter to the communicant is copied to you for your information. Should you wish to comment on any of the issues raised in that letter, please feel free to address them in your response.

Should you have any questions with regard to the procedure, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[original signed]

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Jeremy Wates  
Secretary  
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Cc: Alliance for the Protection of the Gulf of Vlorë