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ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
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ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

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27 July 2006

To: Ms. Nancy Cooke
Albania Lead Country Officer
The World Bank

Mr. Nadir Mohammed
Country Manager
The World Bank Office in Tirana

Dear Ms. Cooke, Mr. Mohammed,

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

On 27 April 2005, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received a communication from an Albanian non-governmental organization, Civil Society Development Center of Vlora, sent on behalf of the Alliance for the Protection of the Gulf of Vlora and addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention regarding compliance by Albania with certain provisions of the Convention. 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 on the review of compliance.

The communication is concerned with access to information and public participation in decision-making on the proposed industrial park and the power station in Vlore (Albania). The full text of the communication, as well as additional information provided by the Party concerned and the communicant, are available on the communication's website <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/compliance/C2005-12/DatasheetC-2005-12v13.06.06.doc>. A set of the most relevant documents will be posted to you by regular mail, for your convenience.

In its review of the communication, the Committee took note of the fact that the decision-making processes referred to in it were also subject to procedures of the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Given the need to avoid duplication of effort and enhance synergies, the Committee has requested the secretariat to inform the World Bank (as well as the EBRD) that it is considering a communication on the matter and to inquire about the Bank's involvement in the proposed projects, including whether the Bank's Inspection Panel is or has been addressing the issue.

The Committee also requested that the correspondence to the two institutions would be copied to the Government of Albania and the institutions would be copied on the correspondence to the Government. In connection with this request, you were copied on the letter of the Committee's Chairperson, Prof. Veit Koester, to the Minister of Environment of Albania dated 12 April 2006.

Considering the above, you are kindly invited to provide any relevant information that, in your opinion, will facilitate the process under the Convention's compliance review mechanism. The Committee intends to resume its deliberations on the communication at its thirteenth meeting (4-6 October 2006). We would, therefore appreciate if you could provide any relevant information by mid-September 2006 if possible.

For further details and information on the compliance mechanism under the Convention, including decision I/7, the Committee's modus operandi and the Committee's Information Sheet on Communications from the Public, you may wish to consult the website of the Compliance Committee at www.unece.org/env/pp/compliance.htm.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

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

Cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

Mr. Romeo Zegali, National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration of Albania

Ms. Edith Brown Weiss, the World Bank Inspection Panel

Mr. Luis Borgo, Senior Banker, Power/Energy Utilities Team, EBRD

Mr. Donald Mishaxhi, EBRD Resident Office in Tirana

Ms. Elizabeth Smith, Senior Environmental Advisor, EBRD

Mr. Alexander Mita, Civil Society Development Center of Vlora, on behalf of the Alliance for the Protection of the Gulf of Vlora