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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Environment, Housing and Land Management Division
Bureau 332
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41-22-917 2384
Fax: +41-22-917 0634
E-mail: jeremy.wates@unece.org
Website: www.unece.org/env/pp

24 August 2009

Mr. Juan Manuel García Bartolomé
Head of Information Service
Technical General Secretariat
Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs
Paseo de la Infanta Isabel
E-28071 Madrid
Spain

Dear Mr. García Bartolomé,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Spain with the provisions of the Convention in connection with decision-making on a residential development project in the city of Murcia, Spain (Ref. ACCC/C/2008/24)

At its twenty-fourth meeting (30 June – 3 July 2009), the Committee continued its work to prepare draft findings with respect to the above communication, taking into account inter alia the supplementary information provided by the communicant at the request of the Committee at its previous meeting (ECE/MP.PP/C/1/2009/2, para. 15).

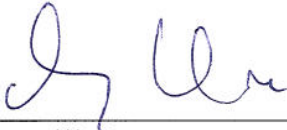
The Committee noted the general requirement under paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7 on any Party whose compliance is the subject of a communication from a member of the public to provide a written response as soon as possible and at the latest within five months of the communication being brought to its attention. In the light of this requirement, the Committee noted with regret that the written response from you, which was due by 7 January 2009, had only been received on 26 June 2009 in Spanish and on 29 June 2009 in English, one day before the meeting. The Committee briefly discussed the procedural ramifications of such a belated response but decided, having regard to the fact that the response was the first and only information from the Spanish Government, to take it into account.

The Committee did not complete the task of preparing draft findings but agreed to continue its deliberations on the matter at its twenty-fifth meeting (22-25 September 2009), with a view to completing the preparation of the draft findings and, if appropriate, recommendations at that meeting. The draft findings will then be sent for comment to you and to the communicant, in accordance with paragraph 34 of the annex to decision I/7. The Committee will take into account any comments when finalizing and adopting the draft findings and, as appropriate, recommendations at its twenty-sixth meeting (15-18 December 2009).

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates
Secretary

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

Cc: Ms. Fe Sanchis Moreno, Mr. Salazar Ortuño, Asociación para la Justicia Ambiental (AJA)