

MINISTERUL MEDIULUI  
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVAMINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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Our Ref: *03-08/25*

Date: 4 March 2011

Re: Concerning the findings and recommendations  
of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Dear Ms. Linn,

With reference to your letter of 7 January 2011, regarding the follow-up on communication ACCC/C/2008/30, I want to inform you the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova has made considerable efforts towards a better implementation of the Compliance Committee's recommendations on the case of NGO "International Association of Keepers Rivers Eco-TIRAS" Vs Agency "Moldsilva".

First of all, the Ministry of Environment, in its capacity of National Coordinator for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, addressed several appeals asking Moldsilva to execute the decision of Chisinau Court of Appeal adopted on 23 June 2008, which obliges Moldsilva to provide Eco-TIRAS with copies of all contracts for rent of lands of the State Forestry Fund, as previously requested by Eco-TIRAS.

These are: Letters no. 03-07/163 of 06.02.2009 and no. 03-06/645 of 04.05.2009 of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) and letter no. 01-5/390 of 12.12.2009 of the Ministry of Environment (MM).

Official letters were also addressed to the Government of the Republic of Moldova, Moldova's State Chancellery, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration (with copies to Agency "Moldsilva" and NGO "Eco-Tiras"), informing about how things have evaluated and asking for an active involvement and assistance in solving this case.

In line with all above mentioned, we are pleased to inform you that *today, 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2011, the NGO "Eco-TIRAS" received from Agency "Moldsilva" copies of all contracts for rent of lands of the State Forestry Fund*, as previously requested.

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**To: Ms. Monika Linn**  
Deputy Director,  
Environment Division  
Economic Commission for Europe

**CC: Ms. Ella Behlyarova**  
Secretary,  
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to  
Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)  
Environment, Housing and Land Management Division  
Economic Commission for Europe

Being aware that at its thirty-first meeting (Geneva, 22-25 February 2011), the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee reviewed the progress made by the Republic of Moldova with regard to the recommendations of the Committee to the Party concerned in communication ACCC/C/2008/30 and at the same meeting the Committee prepared a draft report with recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties, we would like to kindly ask you to reconsider the possibility of inclusion in the report of the information about compliance by Republic of Moldova.

Moreover, in order to assure compliance by the Republic of Moldova with other findings and recommendations of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group has been established, by an Order of the Ministry of Environment, including officials representing relevant institutions. The Working Group had met in its first session on April 6, 2010, being followed by several other meetings.

As a result of discussions during the above mentioned meetings, concrete actions were underlined and were included later in the draft of the National Program on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters and the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Program in the Republic of Moldova, for the period 2011-2015.

This Program has been already coordinated and approved by the relevant ministries and institutions and has been submitted to the Ministry of Justice, for the last approval.

The Draft National Program and Action Plan is planned to be approved, at the last stage, by a decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

It is to be mentioned that the National Plan for harmonization of legislation for the year 2011, approved by Decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova nr.1210 of 27 December 2010, includes following measures:

- to operate changes in the Government Decision on amending the Government Decision nr 187 of 20 February 2008 „On approving the Regulation regarding the rent of forestry fund with scope of hunting household and/or recreation” (according to Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC). To be executed by Agency “Moldsilva” and MoE, by last trimester of 2011.

- to elaborate a new Law on Access to Environmental Information, (according to Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC. To be executed by MoE, by last trimester of 2011.

- to change the Government Decision on amending the Government Decision no. 72 of 25 January 2000 "On approval of the Regulation on Public Participation in the development and adoption of environmental decisions," (according to the Directive 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 May 2003 providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programs relating to the environment and amending with regard to public participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC . To be executed by MoE, by last trimester of 2011.

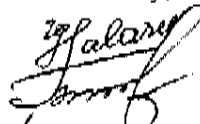
In order to meet also other recommendations, it is planned to create an Aarhus Centre within the Ministry of Environment, which will assist and support the National Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention and the Inter-Ministerial Working Group, in all activities related to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Republic of Moldova.

Within the Aarhus Centre it is planned to organize round tables, workshops and seminars with different target groups, aimed to address different environment issues including environmental legislation, to discuss environmental projects, to submit comments and proposals on environmental matters to relevant authorities.

And last but not least, I wish to inform you that we make all it is necessary to assure a good preparation for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and its preparatory meetings to be held in our country from 25<sup>th</sup> of June to 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2011. It will be a great pleasure to welcome you and your colleagues in Chisinau.

Please accept, Ms. Linn, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,



**Gheorghe SALARU**

Minister,

Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention

*Diana Celac,*  
*Secretary of the Aarhus Convention*  
*celacd@mediu.gov.md*