



MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE,
MEDIO RURAL Y MARINO

SECRETARÍA GENERAL TÉCNICA
SUBDIRECCION GENERAL DE
INFORMACION AL CIUDADANO,
DOCUMENTACION PUBLICACIONES.

Madrid, 13 January 2010

Mr. Jeremy Wates
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
Environment, Housing and Land Management Division
Bureau 332 - Palais des Nations
Ch-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Dear Mr Wates,

In reply to your letter of 22 December 2009 I am pleased to tell you that, as I said in my speech of 16 December 2009 to the Compliance Committee, and in line with certain recommendations made by the Committee regarding the Communication made by the Association for Environmental Justice on Spain's alleged breaches of compliance with the Aarhus Convention, the Ministry plans to develop a capacity building program and provide training on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention within the scope of its competence. It will also be proposing to all Autonomous Communities and the local authorities that they step up activities in this area.

As regards Section A (Main findings with regard to non-compliance), I refer you to the report sent on this matter compiled by the Senior State Lawyer and the Sub-director General of Legislation of this Ministry.

I also attach a Spanish version of the full report compiled by the Sub-director General of General Services of Murcia City Council Planning Department and a partial translation of the report in English related to this matter.

Please find enclosed also the English translation of my speech to the Compliance Committee on 16 December 2009; the reply to the specific questions that Mr Jandroska addressed to me. In this case, I refer you also to the national report compiled by this focal point regarding the specific questions the Secretariat forwarded to me regarding the Communication by the *Plataforma contra la Contaminación de Almendralejo* ('Almendralejo Anti-Pollution Platform').

I reiterate our disposition to cooperate with the Secretariat and with the Compliance Committee as we are fully persuaded that their recommendations will serve to enhance the application of the Aarhus Convention in Spain.

Yours sincerely,


Juan Manuel García Bartolomé

National Focal Point Aarhus Convention

