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Ref: ACCC/C/2013/98

27 June 2014

Ms. Agne Murauskaite
Head of Law Application Division
Law and Personnel Department
Ministry of Environment
4/9, A. Jaksto Str.
LT-01105 Vilnius
Lithuania

Ms. Egle Leonaviciute
Chief Desk Officer
Law Application Division
Law Personnel Department
Ministry of Environment
4/9, A. Jaksto Str.
LT-01105 Vilnius
Lithuania

Dear Ms. Murauskaite, Ms. Leonaviciute,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Lithuania in connection with the construction of overhead powerlines (ACCC/C/2013/98)

On 30 December 2013, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received the above communication addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Lithuania with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged failure to provide access to information, public participation and access to justice regarding the construction of overhead powerlines in an environmentally sensitive area. 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.

Please find enclosed a copy of the communication, which is being forwarded to you at the request of the Committee in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to decision I/7.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2013/98, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. The main documentation relating to the communication will be shortly available on the Committee's web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/pubcom.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its forty-fourth meeting (25-28 March 2014), has on a preliminary basis determined it to be admissible in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/7. A copy of the preliminary determination on admissibility is attached. Please note, however, that the Committee has not reached any conclusions with respect to the compliance issues referred to in the communication.

Having regard to paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7, you are kindly invited to submit to the Committee, as soon as possible but at the latest within five months of the date of this letter (i.e. by **27 November 2014**), any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the communication and describing any response that may have been made in the meantime.

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

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

- Cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr. Ramune Ramanauskiene, on behalf of Association Rudamina Community (communicant of communication ACCC/C/2013/98)
- Enc: Communication ACCC/C/2013/98 (including 1 supporting document)
Preliminary determination on admissibility
Datasheet on the communication