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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
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Tel: +41 (0)22 917 4226 (direct)
+41 (0)22 917 1234 (Palais des Nations)
E-mail: aarhus.compliance@unece.org

Palais des Nations, Room 429-4
CH-1211 GENEVA 10

Ref: ACCC/C/2014/102

1 September 2015

Ms. Iya Malkina
First Deputy Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
Minsk
Republic of Belarus

Mr. Ivan Narkevitch
Head of the Department of International Conventions and Agreements
Department of International Conventions and Agreements
Minsk
Republic of Belarus

Dear Ms. Malkina and Mr. Narkevitch,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Belarus in connection with harassment of anti-nuclear activists (ACCC/C/2014/102)

We are writing to inform you that the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee will discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2014/102 at its fiftieth meeting (Palais des Nations, Geneva, 6-9 October 2015).

The discussion of the above communication is scheduled for **Wednesday, 7 October 2015**, starting at 10:30 am and concluding by 4:30 pm.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both parties are entitled to participate in the discussion on the subject matter of the communication, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee.

According to the Committee's normal practice, the discussion of the communication, which will be held in open session, will be interspersed with at least one closed session in which the Committee will begin the process of preparing draft findings. It is envisaged that the first part of the discussion in open session will take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair;
- opening of the discussion by the curator for the case (10-15 minutes);
- concise presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals (10-15 minutes each);
- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the communicant (30 minutes);
- comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair (10 minutes);
- final comments by the communicant (5-10 minutes);
- final comments by the Party concerned (5-10 minutes).

During the second part of the discussion (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to you or the communicant, or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached. Further details concerning the timetable for the discussions during the day will be provided nearer the time.

Should you or any other representative(s), as appropriate, wish to attend the meeting, the attached registration form should be completed for each participant and sent to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, attention of Ms. Maricar de la Cruz (aarhus.compliance@unece.org), by **22 September 2015**. All participants are encouraged to cover their own costs as far as possible, but in case you would require financial support to cover travel and subsistence costs in order to be represented at the meeting, please notify me by return and in any case no later than **4 September 2015**.

The Committee has indicated that the meeting should not be used as an occasion to introduce substantial amounts of information that could or should have been provided to it at an earlier stage, unless this is unavoidable (e.g. because it concerns very recent developments). Should you wish to present any further substantial written material related to the matter, you should take into account that where such information is received less than two weeks before the scheduled meeting, it is doubtful whether the Committee would be able to take it into consideration when it is discussing the matter.

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 Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Ms. Irina Sukhiy, Public Association "Ecohome", Republic of Belarus
Mr. Andriy Andrusevych, Resource & Analysis Center "Society and Environment", Ukraine
- Enc: Registration form for the fiftieth meeting of the Compliance Committee
Financial support request form