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Ref: ACCC/C/2014/120

28 June 2015

Ms. Tatiana TÖKÖLYOVÁ
Department of the Sustainable Development
Ministry of the Environment
Bratislava
Slovakia

Dear Ms. Tökölyová,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Slovakia in connection with public participation and access to justice in connection with the preparation of the Forest Act (ACCC/C/2014/120)

On 8 December 2014, 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 Slovakia with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged failure to provide public participation and access to justice during the preparation of draft legislation, namely the draft Forest Act. 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/2014/120, 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 using its electronic decision-making procedure considered the admissibility of the communication, taking into account the comments received from the Government of Slovakia on 27 March 2015, and on 7 April 2015 determined it to be admissible on a preliminary basis 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 **28 November 2015**), 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 Slovak Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
NGO "Via Iuris"- communicant of communication ACCC/C/2014/120

Enc: Communication ACCC/C/2014/120
Preliminary determination on admissibility