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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/2016/144

20 March 2017

Mr. Georgi Serbezov  
Non-profit association "Civil Control – Animal Protection"  
Plovdiv  
Bulgaria

Dear Mr. Serbezov,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Bulgaria in connection with public participation and access to justice in relation to an amendment of the General Spatial Plan of Plovdiv (ACCC/C/2016/144)**

On 14 November 2016, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received from you the above communication addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Bulgaria with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged failure to provide for public participation and access to justice both, specifically, in connection with the 2014 amendment of the General Spatial Plan of Plovdiv and, generally, via its legal framework. 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.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2016/144, 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 fifty-sixth meeting (28 February – 3 March 2017), 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fiona Marshall".

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Fiona Marshall  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva  
Ms. Rositza Karamfilova, Head Expert, Environmental Policies Directorate, Strategies and Programmes Department, Ministry of Environment and Waters, Bulgaria

Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility