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Ref: ACCC/C/2016/144

20 March 2017

Ms. Rositza Karamfilova
Head Expert, Environmental Policies Directorate
Strategies and Programmes Department
Ministry of Environment and Waters
Bulgaria

Dear Ms. Karamfilova,

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 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. All documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee's web site at: <https://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/com.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.

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 **20 August 2017**), 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 Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr. Georgi Serbezov, representing the communicant of communication ACCC/C/2016/144

Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility