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20 January 2010

Attn. Mrs. Aida Iskoyan
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention
Ministry of Nature Protection
Republic Square, 3rd Governmental Building
375010 Yerevan
Republic of Armenia
Fax: +374 1/530 669

Dear Ms. Iskoyan,

Re: Decision III/6b of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention concerning compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention

Hereby I would like to draw your attention to decision III/6b adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention at its third session on 13 June 2008 in Riga, Latvia, concerning compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.10).

The Convention's Compliance Committee at its twenty-sixth meeting (15-18 December 2009) took note of the information you provided on 8 December 2009 on the progress in implementing the recommendations set out in paragraph 8 of the decision. The Committee welcomed the submission of the progress report in time to be considered at its twenty-sixth meeting and the progress made by the Republic of Armenia during 2009. It requested the secretariat to seek clarification from you on certain points, notably with regard to the legislation and the training programmes described in the progress report, as per the attached. You are kindly requested to address the questions of the annex to this letter by 1 March 2010.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat (public.participation@unece.org) if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Wates

Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Offices in Geneva

Annex – Questions posed by the Compliance Committee

1. Please provide more details on the implementation of the requirements set out in paragraphs 8 (a) – (c) of decision III/6b, including in particular (i) an indication of possible dates, themes and target groups for relevant events (such as trainings); and (ii) a description of the objectives, outcomes and outputs of the legislative and practical measures taken and the public consultations held, and a comparison of the new measures described in the progress report of December 2009 to the measures described in the progress report of March 2009.
2. Please submit a copy of the decision of the Prime Minister relating to the publication of draft legal acts on the web sites of the relevant public authorities for the purpose of inviting public comment.
3. Please provide details on the current development of the legislation on environmental impact assessment (EIA), including the terms of reference of experts involved in the process, expected outcomes of their work, deliverables and time frames.
4. Please provide a copy of the draft legislative proposals, if any, to amend the EIA legislation that were developed by local experts in cooperation with the international expert designated by the Espoo Convention secretariat.