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12 January 2011

Ms. Aida Iskoyan  
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention  
Ministry of Nature Protection  
Republic Square, 3rd Governmental Building  
375010 Yerevan  
Armenia

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).

At its thirtieth meeting (14-17 December 2010), the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee took note on the information submitted by Armenia on 30 November 2010. It noticed, however, that the content of the information was identical to the information it had already received from the Party concerned in February 2010.

Therefore, the Committee asked the secretariat to prompt you to submit an updated progress report, as required under paragraph 9 of decision III/6b, as soon as possible, but not later than **11 February 2011**. In particular the Committee would appreciate precise information on the following:

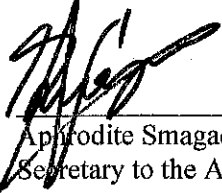
- (a) With regard to paragraph 8 (b) of decision III/6b: the Committee understands that Armenia has amended the RA Law "On environmental impact expertise". However, it is not clear to what extent this amendment addresses public participation in decision-making on the activities referred to in article 6, paragraph 1, of the Convention. Kindly clarify this point in your updated report to enable the Committee to assess the progress made by Armenia in respect of paragraph 8 (b).
- (b) With regard to paragraph 8 (c) of decision III/6b: the Committee notes that Armenia calls attention to the decision of the Cassation Court of RA, which will be the basis for further development of procedural law and for the training of the judicial practice. In light of this case law of the Cassation Court, how does Armenia explain the judgment of the RA Administrative Court *Ecodar v RA Government, RA Ministry of Nature Protection and RA Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Third Person "Armenia Copper Program" CJSC* of 24 March 2010, which in effect rejected the claim of Ecodar?

In providing your response, please address the recommendations of the above referenced decision and the questions of the Committee in a brief and explicit manner.

At its thirty-first meeting (22-25 February 2011), the Committee will finalize its report to the Meeting of the Parties, which is going to hold its fourth session in June 2011. In its report the Committee will include a review on the progress made by Armenia in implementing the recommendations of the Committee during the inter-sessional period and recommendations, as appropriate. If the Committee does not receive updated information from Armenia, it will make its assessment on the basis of the information submitted so far.

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

Yours sincerely,



Aphrodite Smagadi  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva  
Amalia Kostanyan, Center for Regional Development/Transparency International Armenia NGO