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Palais des Nations, Room 429-4
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Ref: Decision V/9c

16 April 2016

Ms. Tatsiana Yeudasiova,
Ministry Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus
Minsk
Republic of Belarus

Mr. Andriy Andrusevych and Mr. Thomas Alge,
Legal Focal Points for European ECO Forum

Ms. Iryna Sukhiy,
Public Association Ecohome
Minsk
Republic of Belarus

Dear Ms. Yeudasiova,
Dear Mr. Andrusevych and Mr. Alge,
Dear Ms. Sukhiy,

**Re: Decision V/9c concerning compliance by Belarus
with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention**

I would like to thank the representatives of the Party concerned and the communicant of communication ACCC/C/2009/44 for their participation in the open session on decision V/9c held on 8 March at the Compliance Committee's 52nd meeting. I would also like to thank the observer, NGO "Ecohome" for its written statement sent the same day.

As you may recall, at the end of the open session, the Committee invited the Party concerned to submit its comments made during the session, as well as any further comments it wished to make, in written form as soon as possible after the meeting. The Committee also asked the Party concerned to do the following:

1. To provide the Committee with a list clearly identifying which articles of the Law "On Amendments and Supplements to Some Laws of the Republic of Belarus on Environmental Protection and Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmentally Significant Matters" implement each of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 6(a) - (i) and 7(a) - (c) of decision V/9c.
2. If any other draft legislation has been prepared to date to implement the recommendations in paragraphs 6(a) - (i) and 7(a) - (c) of decision V/9c, to provide the Committee with the relevant excerpts of that draft legislation, indicating which recommendation each relevant provision is intended to implement.

3. To explain the reasons that proposed activities for military purposes have been exempted entirely (rather than on a case-by-case basis) from the provisions on public participation in the above-mentioned Law. Is it assumed that public participation in decision-making on activities for military purposes will necessarily always have an adverse effect on those purposes, and if so, on what basis is this assumption made?

The Committee would be grateful to receive the above information by **Monday, 25 April**, in order that it may be taken into account in the finalization of the Committee's second progress review on the implementation of decision V/9c. Communicants and observers will thereafter have five working days to send their comments on the information provided.

Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the above.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva