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Ref: Decision V/9d

16 April 2016

Mr. Hristo Stoev
Environmental Policies Directorate
Strategies and Programmes Department
Ministry of Environment and Waters
Sofia, Bulgaria

Mr. Alexander Dountchev
Balkani Wildlife Society
Sofia, Bulgaria

Dear Mr. Stoev,
Dear Mr. Dountchev,

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

I would like to thank you for your participation in the open session on decision V/9d of the Meeting of the Parties concerning Bulgaria held on 11 March at the Compliance Committee's 52nd meeting (Geneva, 8-11 March 2016).

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

1. Does the public have the right to appeal to the courts to challenge (i) the general or spatial plan itself; and/or (ii) the decision adopting the general or spatial plan; or (iii) only the EIA or SEA decision regarding the general or spatial plan?
2. Can members of the public appeal a refusal to impose administrative measures under article 158 of the Environment Protection Act?

The Committee would be grateful to receive the above information from the Party concerned 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/9d. The communicant will thereafter have five working days to comment on the information received.

In addition, at the meeting the Committee invited the Party concerned to provide the texts of any legislative or administrative proposals to improve the investment climate prepared to date that may impact on the range of persons concerned in proceedings regarding the issue of administrative decisions and enforcement of the regulatory regime in the areas of spatial planning and construction. Please provide the Bulgarian text (in Word) of any such proposals by Monday, 25 April, and an English translation of the relevant provisions as soon as possible thereafter. The communicant will have five working days from the date the Bulgarian language versions of such proposals are submitted to the Committee to comment on the proposals.

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 Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva