

Jonas Ebbesson
**Chair of the Compliance Committee under the UNECE Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
(Aarhus Convention)**

Stockholm, 14 June 2016

Dear Sir,

**Re: Inquiry – Request from the Office of the President of the Republic of Albania
to the Aarhus Convention's Compliance Committee**

First, I would like to thank you for your letter of 5 May 2016. I value the invitation by the Office of the President of the Republic of Albania inviting the Committee to consider the possibility of providing direct field expertise regarding the construction project at the Tirana Lake Park in Albania. Indeed, the provision of such expertise can, in appropriate circumstances, be an effective means to facilitate transparent and productive discussion between all parties involved.

I plan to discuss your request with the members of the Compliance Committee at the Committee's upcoming 53rd meeting (Geneva, 21-24 June 2016). In this regard, if you indicate your wish for it to do so, the Committee may consider your request as a formal request for advice or assistance pursuant to paragraph 36(a) of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (attached).


However, before proceeding further, there are a couple of preliminary points I would like to make.

First, as you will no doubt understand, the role of the Committee is to further compliance with the Convention. Thus, in order to provide assistance with respect to the construction project at Tirana Lake Park, it would be first necessary to establish that the project and related circumstances indeed fall within the scope of the Convention.

Second, in keeping with the spirit of the Convention, the Committee works in a transparent manner and the active involvement of the public and other stakeholders is an essential part of its working methods. I must therefore ask you to clarify your request for confidentiality regarding your correspondence. In this regard, I refer you to paragraphs 25-31 of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, which define the mandate of the Committee. While at this stage no information about your letter has been disclosed, if the Committee engages in the matter, save as provided for in these provisions of decision I/7, no information held by the Committee shall be kept confidential. Before proceeding further, in the light of the above, I would therefore ask you to indicate your agreement for your request henceforth to be dealt with in accordance with the Committee's usual transparent procedure. For a request like yours, this may include a mission to your country, meetings with government officials, NGOs and members of the public, discussions by the Committee at its meetings in both closed and open session, and reporting by the Committee to the Convention's Meeting of the Parties on this matter. As indicated above, I think this may be an adequate procedure to achieve what you are suggesting.

I look forward to receiving your response and to our future productive cooperation. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat of the Convention if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Jonas Ebbesson

Mr. Florjan Nuri,
Office of the President of the Republic
Secretary General
Republic of Albania

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

Enc: Decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention