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8 May 2012

Ms. Branka Pivčević Novak
Head of Department
Department for Sustainable Development
Directorate for International Co-operation and Sustainable Development
Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction
Ul. Rep. Austrije 14
10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

Dear Ms. Novak,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Croatia in relation to public participation in the adoption of waste management plans (Ref. ACCC/C/2012/66)

On 24 January 2012, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received the above communication addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Croatia with provisions of the Convention on public participation in the adoption of waste management plans. The communication was submitted in accordance with the provisions of chapter VI of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties.

Please find enclosed a copy of the communication, which is being forwarded to you at the request of the Committee in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to decision I/7.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2012/66, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. The main documentation relating to the communication will be shortly available on the Committee's web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/pubcom.htm>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its thirty-sixth meeting (27-30 March 2012), has on a preliminary basis determined it to be admissible in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/7. A copy of the preliminary determination on admissibility is attached. Please note, however, that the Committee has not reached any conclusions with respect to the compliance issues referred to in the communication.

Having regard to paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7, you are kindly invited to submit to the Committee, as soon as possible but at the latest within five months of the date of this letter (i.e. by **8 October 2012**), any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the communication and describing any response that may have been made in the meantime.

Additionally, in order to facilitate further consideration of the communication, the Committee has requested the secretariat to invite you to address a number of questions that are annexed to this letter. Please provide any

supplementary documentation which is necessary to substantiate your response to the questions. At the same time, you are encouraged to avoid submitting to the Committee excessive documentation which is not strictly relevant to the allegation of non-compliance. In providing your response, please note that you should explicitly comment on the communication itself and the allegations contained therein, as well as addressing the questions raised by the Committee.

In a letter to the communicant, a copy of which you will receive for your information, the Committee has invited the communicant to address several questions. You are welcome to respond to those questions, if you so wish.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations Office in Geneva
Ms. Zrinka Jakl, Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development "Sunce"

Encs. Communication ACCC/C/2012/66 (including annexes)
Preliminary determination on admissibility
Datasheet on the communication