

Ref: ECE/ENV/2020/179

4 December 2020

Dear Mr. Pirshuk,

Subject: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Belarus with respect to public participation in decision-making on the Brest battery plant (ACCC/C/2020/182)

I am writing at the request of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. On 24 May 2020, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received from Ms Dubina, representative of Ecohome, the above communication addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Belarus with articles 6 (2), (3), (4) and (9) of the Convention with respect to public participation in decision-making regarding a battery plant in Brest. 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.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2020/182, which you are invited to cite in all future correspondence on the matter. All documentation relating to the communication is available on the Compliance Committee's website at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/com.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its sixty-eighth meeting on 23-27 November 2020, 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 **4 May 2021**), 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.

Mr. Baliaslau Pirshuk
First Deputy Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
Republic of Belarus

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Marco Keiner
Director
Environment Division

- Cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Ms. Maryna Dubina, Ecohome, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2020/182
- Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility