



NATIONS UNIES
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE
POUR L'EUROPE

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Environment, Housing and Land Management Division
Bureau 332
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41-22-917 2384
Fax: +41-22-917 0634
E-mail: jeremy.wates@unece.org
Website: www.unece.org/env/pp

6 November 2009

Mr: Thomas ALGE
European ECO Forum legal focal point
Head Environmental Law
OEKOBUERO - Coordination office of Austrian Environmental Organisations
Volksgartenstrasse 1, A-1010 Wien (Vienna)
Fax +43-1-524-9377/20

Dear Mr. Alge,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Belarus with provisions of the Convention in connection with a hydro power plant project on the Neman River (Ref. ACCC/C/2009/37)

We would like to inform you that at its twenty-fifth meeting (22-25 September 2009), the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee decided that the substance of communication ACCC/C/2009/37 would be considered at the Committee's twenty-sixth meeting, to be held on 15-18 December 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The discussion is currently scheduled on Thursday 17 December 2009. It will start at 11 am and is expected to conclude no later than 5.30 pm.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both the communicant and the Party concerned are entitled to participate in the discussion on the subject matter of the communication, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee. On 4 November 2009, the secretariat received correspondence from the communicant authorising a representative of the European ECO Forum (Mr. Andriy Andrusevich) to represent the communicant in the upcoming discussion.

According to the Committee's normal practice, the discussion on the communication, which will be held in open session, will be interspersed with at least one closed session in which the Committee will begin the process of preparing draft findings. It is envisaged that the first part of the discussion in open session will take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair;
- opening of the discussion by the curator for the case;
- presentations by a representative of the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals;

- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the representative of the communicant;
- comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair;
- final comments by the representative of the communicant;
- final comments by the Party concerned.

During the second part of the discussion (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to the representative of the communicant or the Party concerned, or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached. Further details concerning the timetable for the discussions during the day will be provided nearer the time.

Should you or another representative of the 'amicus' wish to attend the meeting, the attached registration form should be completed and sent to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, attention of Ms. Maricar de la Cruz (fax: +41 22 917 0634), by 1 December 2009.

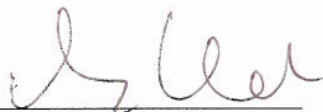
We have requested the UN Conference Services to provide interpretation from English into Russian and vice versa during the discussion.

The Committee has indicated that the meeting should not be used as an occasion to introduce substantial amounts of information that could or should have been provided to it at an earlier stage, unless this is unavoidable (e.g. because it concerns very recent developments). Should you wish to present any substantial written material related to the matter, you should take into account that where such information is received less than two weeks before the scheduled meeting, it is doubtful whether the Committee would be able to take it into consideration when it is discussing the matter, even where the information is provided in English.

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates
Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters