

## NATIONS UNIES

## ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ

## UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE POUR L'EUROPE ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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8 November 2011

Ref: ECE/ENV/124

Dear Sir,

Re: Communication to the Compliance Committee of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters ("Aarhus Convention") concerning compliance by Kazakhstan with provisions of the Convention in connection with public participation in the conduct of state environmental review (expertiza) for the South West Roads Project (Ref. ACCC/C/2011/59)

We are writing to inform you that at its thirty-fourth meeting (20-23 September 2011), the Compliance Committee of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters ("Aarhus Convention") decided to discuss the abovenamed communication at its thirty-fifth meeting, to be held on 13-16 December 2011 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The discussion of the above communication is scheduled for Wednesday, 14 December 2011, starting at 10.30 am and concluding by 5 pm. Interpretation in English and Russian will be available.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both parties 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.

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Mr. Ruslan Bultrikov Vice-Minister of Environment Protection Ministry of Environmental Protection Orynbor Street, House 8, "Ministries House" Astana 010000, Kazakhstan

cc: Ms. Diana Mukanova, Director of Environmental Legislation and Legal Support Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Kazakhstan Mr. Bauyrzhan Momynjanuly Issaliyev, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Public Association "National Analysis and Information Resource", Kazakhstan Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Enc: Registration form for the thirty-fifth meeting of the Compliance Committee

According to the Committee's normal practice, the discussion of 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;
- concise presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals (ten minutes each);
- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the communicant;
- comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair;
- final comments by 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 you 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.

You, or your representative(s), are cordially invited to attend the meeting to take part in the discussion of the abovenamed communication. The attached registration form should be completed for each participant and sent to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, attention of Ms. Maricar de la Cruz (public.participation@unece.org), by 29 November 2011. All participants are encouraged to cover their own costs as far as possible.

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 (further) 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.

Should you require any further information concerning the meeting, you are invited to contact the secretariat.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Marco Keiner

Director

**Environment Division** 

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe