

To: Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention

From: European ECO Forum Legal Focal Points

Re: Follow-up on communication C/44 and MOP Decision IV/9b

Dear Chair of the Compliance Committee,

As a communicant in communication C/44 (Belarus) we are presenting you the information below in relation to environmental activists from Belarus and Russia who joined our communication. We are kindly asking you to take this information into consideration during assessment of any measures taken by the Government of Belarus to implement Decision IV/9b.

On 18 July 2012 in Minsk Belarus journalist Tatjana Novikova, head of the environmental organization EcoDom Irina Sukhy and human rights monitor Michael Matskevich were arrested, as well as Russian Federation national Andrei Ozharovsky. They were arrested on their way to hand over a petition to the Russian Embassy expressing their concerns about the construction and operation of a new nuclear power station near Ostrovets.

This case is related communication C/44 which addressed the construction of a new nuclear station in Belarus. Ms.Novikava, Ms.Sukhy and Mr.Ozharovsky were present at public hearing of that communication.

Ms.Sukhiy was sentenced to a fine. Ms.Tatsiana Novikava and Mr.Andrey Ozharovsky were sentenced to several days in jail, which they fully spent there (5 and 10 days accordingly). During their detention in jail, Ms.Tatsiana Noviakava was denied taking special medicines for several days – medicines she must take daily due to cancer treatment consequences.

We consider this to be a violation of article 3.8 of the Aarhus Convention. We consider this to be very important for the purpose of assessment of Belarus efforts to implement relevant Aarhus Convention MOP decision.

Kindly,

Andriy Andrusevych