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23 January 2013

Dear Sir,

Decision IV/9b adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) at its fourth session (29 June – 1 July 2011)

I am writing to bring to your attention that at its thirty-ninth meeting (Geneva, 11-14 December 2012), the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee discussed the implementation of decision IV/9b on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention.

The Committee recalled that Belarus had provided information on 15 September 2012. The Committee also recalled that at its thirty-eighth meeting (Geneva, 25-28 September 2012) it had received information from observers concerning the arrest and detention of members of the public expressing their concern over the construction and operation of the Ostrovets nuclear power plant (see ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2012/8 para. 44); and that on 5 October 2012 the Chair of the Committee, Professor Jonas Ebbesson, had sent a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vladimir Makei, inviting Belarus to comment on those events, which, if substantiated, would amount to non-compliance with article 3, paragraph 8, of the Convention.

You are now reminded that Belarus is expected to submit a report on the legislative amendments and how those address the specific elements of paragraph 4 of decision IV/9b by **1 February 2013**. In your report, please also address the issue raised by the Chair of the Committee in his letter of 5 October 2012.

Mr. Vitaly Kulik
First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources
and Environmental Protection
of the Republic of Belarus
10, Kollektornaya str.
220048 Minsk

The Committee will review the material it receives at its fortieth meeting (Geneva, 25-28 March 2013).

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

Yours sincerely,



Marco Keiner
Director
Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commissions for Europe

cc: Mr. Ivan Narkevitch, Head of the Department of International Conventions and Agreements RUE "Bel SRC "Ecology", Belarus
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr. Andriy Andrusyevych, European ECO Forum
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