

**Jonas Ebbesson**

**Chair of the Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public  
Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters  
(Aarhus Convention)**

Stockholm, 4 June 2014

**Re: Astravets nuclear power plant, Belarus**

Dear Vice-Minister Petkus,

I refer to your letter of 19 March 2014 addressed to Ms. Ella Behlyarova, Secretary to the Aarhus Convention and myself.

In your letter you drew our attention to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention by Belarus with regard to the right of the Lithuanian public to get comprehensive information and to participate in decision-making procedures related to the development of a nuclear power plant project in Belarus. You kindly requested the Compliance Committee to consider the circumstances explained in your letter when considering Belarus' progress to implement the Committee's recommendations on communication ACCC/C/2009/44.

I write to inform you that the Compliance Committee has carefully considered your letter.

With respect to the specific allegations made by Lithuania in its letter of 19 March 2014, the Committee noted that the majority of the events occurred in 2013, i.e., long after the events giving rise to the Committee's findings ACCC/C/2009/44. It is the Committee's view that while the allegations may concern the Astravets nuclear power plant project, they do not relate to the follow-up to the Committee's findings on communication ACCC/C/2009/44, endorsed through decision IV/9b of the Meeting of the Parties, but rather would potentially be the basis for a new case. Thus, the Committee will make a note of your letter in its report to the MOP, but it will not take further actions or suggest further measures by the MOP on the basis of the new circumstances or allegations.

In the light of the view of the Committee, should Lithuania wish to take these allegations further, I invite you to consider making a submission to the Committee in accordance with MOP Decision I/7.

I also invite you to contact the secretariat if you would wish for any clarification regarding the above.

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



Mr. Almantas Petkus  
Vice-Minister for Environment  
Ministry for Environment  
Lithuania