



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate A - Communication, Legal Affairs and Civil Protection
ENV.A.1 - Communication & Governance
The Head of Unit

Brussels, **10 -01- 2007**
ENV/A.1/D(2007) 335

Mr Jeremy WATES
Secretary
Environment, Housing & Land
Management Division
Bureau 332
Palais des Nations
CH – 1211 Geneva 10

Dear Mr Wates,

Subject: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the European Community with the Convention in relation to the EC Council Directives 85/337/EC and 96/61/EC as amended by Council Directive 2003/35/EC (Ref. ACCC/C/2006)

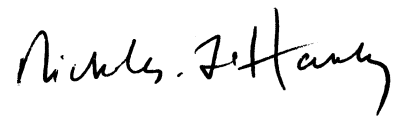
First of all, I would like to introduce myself : Being the Head of Unit in charge of the Communication and Governance unit, the Aarhus Convention and legal instruments implementing it are under my responsibility since early summer 2006. I do hope that we will have an opportunity to meet each other at the occasion of one of the Aarhus Convention meetings organised in 2007, or at your convenience for instance if you plan to travel to Brussels in the coming weeks or months.

I am now writing to you in relation to the above Communication to the Convention's Compliance Committee, where first correspondence dated 11 August was sent to the Commission's Aarhus Convention Focal Point Ms Bettina Lorz, working in my unit.

I regret to inform you that, due to the re-organisation of the service and changes in staffing and the allocation of responsibilities, there is some delay in the examination of this case and we are not in a position to meet the date requested by you for submitting the Commission's answer. In addition, a number of different services are involved and to be consulted. As a consequence of this situation, we can not promise an answer before the end of April 2007. I would like to ask for your and the Compliance Committee's understanding of this delay.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Ms Lorz for any questions or comments that you might have. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Hanley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Nicholas HANLEY
Head of Unit