**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil** Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment



UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Ms. Fiona Marshall Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee Palais des Nations, Room 429-4 CH-1211 GENEVA 10 Switzerland

07 January 2019

Your Ref: ACCC/C/2016/139

## Re: Communication concerning compliance by Ireland with articles 5 and 6 of the Convention with respect to Dumping at Sea Permits (ACCC/C/2016/139)

Dear Ms Marshall

I refer to your letter dated 04<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to the Irish Underwater Council requesting additional information in connection with the above communication.

I note that the ACCC deadline for the Irish Underwater Council for reply was the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and you also stated that "The Party concerned will thereafter have six weeks from the date of your reply to provide any comments it wishes to make thereon."

As you are aware, the 6 week period included the Christmas and New Year holidays. A number of staff directly involved in the case took annual leave prior to the holiday season. A number of the parties central to preparing a response have not yet resumed work duties.

Accordingly, I am seeking an extension to adequately prepare the State's response. In that regard, a further two weeks for reply should be adequate. Should this be acceptable, the proposed deadline would be 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin McCormick National Focal Point –Ireland- Aarhus