



NATIONS UNIES
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE
POUR L'EUROPE

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

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9 February 2010

Ms. Jane Barton
National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention
EU and International Coordination
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Area 1 Nobel House, 17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
United Kingdom

Fax: +44 207 238 3057

Dear Ms. Barton,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom with provisions of the Convention in connection with an opencast coal mine and Merthyr Tydfil, Wales
(Ref. ACCC/C/2009/40)**

With reference to our letter of 22 December 2009, we are writing to confirm that the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee will discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2009/40 at its twenty-seventh meeting, to be held on 16-19 March 2010 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The discussion of the above communication is currently scheduled for Thursday 18 March 2010, starting at 9.00 a.m. and concluding by 4.45 p.m.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both you and the communicant are entitled to participate in the discussion on the subject matter of the communication, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee.

According to the Committee's normal practice, the discussion of the communication, which will be held in open session, will be interspersed with at least one closed session in which the Committee will begin the process of preparing draft findings. It is envisaged that the first part of the discussion in open session will take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair;
- opening of the discussion by the curator for the case;
- presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals;

- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the communicant;
- comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair;
- final comments by the communicant;
- final comments by the Party concerned.

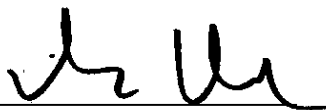
During the second part of the discussion (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to you or the communicant, or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached. Further details concerning the timetable for the discussions during the day will be provided nearer the time.

Should you or any other representative(s), as appropriate, wish to attend the meeting, the attached registration form should be completed for each participant and sent to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, attention of Ms. Maricar de la Cruz (fax: +41 22 917 0634), by 2 March 2010.

The Committee has indicated that the meeting should not be used as an occasion to introduce substantial amounts of information that could or should have been provided to it at an earlier stage, unless this is unavoidable (e.g. because it concerns very recent developments). Should you wish to present any (further) substantial written material related to the matter, you should take into account that where such information is received less than two weeks before the scheduled meeting, it is doubtful whether the Committee would be able to take it into consideration when it is discussing the matter, even where the information is provided in English.

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

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates
Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters

Cc: Mr. Paul Stookes, Richard Buxton Environmental & Public Law
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other
International Organizations in Switzerland

Enc: Registration form for the 27th meeting of the Compliance Committee