



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate E - Implementation & Support to Member States  
**ENV.E.4 - Compliance & Better Regulation**  
**The Head of Unit**

Brussels,  
ENV.E.4/RK/ZB

Ms. Fiona Marshall  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention  
Compliance Committee United  
Nations Economic Commission for  
Europe Environmental Division  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

**Subject: Reply by the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, to the draft findings and recommendations by the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee with regard to case ACCC/C/2013/96 concerning a list of projects of common interest**

Dear Ms. Marshall,

On behalf of the EU, we would like to reassure the Compliance Committee that we work closely and constructively with relevant Commissions services as well as with Union legislators and Member States in order to continuously improve the formulation and implementation of EU law.

These comments focus on the Committee's recommendation concerning the language of the documents used in the public consultation. In addition, the comments also discuss the draft recommendation that *'due account of the outcomes of the public participation is taken, in a transparent and traceable way, in the decision-making'*.

As also explained in our previous submissions, the EU continues to hold the position that there is no wide or systemic non-compliance with regard to either of these issues.

For this reason, we are not in a position at this time to agree with the Committee making direct recommendations pursuant to paragraph 36(b) of the annex to decision I/7.

Nevertheless, the EU is ready to consider further improvements in the practical linguistic arrangements to ensure effective consultations. It is also ready to consider further improvements in the way the EU reports on how the input received during the public consultations is taken into account.

In the attached comments, we would like to highlight a few of our key arguments in this case and clarify some of the facts.

If you need any further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)

**Robert KONRAD**  
Aarhus Focal Point