

To: Marguerite Ryan (email address redacted)
From: Aarhus Compliance
Sent by: Fiona Marshall
Date: 08/09/2015 04:16PM
Cc: Aoife Byrne, Terry Dunne, anballykpf (email addresses redacted)
Subject: ACCC/C/2014/113 (Ireland) - request for extension for Party concerned's response

Dear Ms Ryan,

I refer to your letter of 26 August seeking a six week extension to the deadline of 15 September 2015 for Ireland to provide its response to communication ACCC/C/2013/113, and the communicant's comments of 27 August on your request.

Your request for an extension, together with the communicant's comments on the request, have been duly considered by the Chair of the Committee, in consultation with the curator of the above communication. The Chair has asked me to reply to you.

As you may be aware, the timeframe for a Party to provide its response to a communication is set out in paragraph 23 of decision I/7 which states that "A Party shall, as soon as possible but not later than five months after any communication is brought to its attention by the Committee, submit to the Committee written explanations or statements clarifying the matter and describing any response that it may have made."

Unlike the timeframe for responding to a submission by another Party (three months, with the possibility of an extension to six months), decision I/7 envisages no possibility for an extension to the timeframe for a Party to provide its response to a communication.

In the light of the fact that the timeframe for the Party's response is set by decision of the Meeting of the Parties, rather than by the Committee itself, the Committee has rather limited flexibility to grant an extension to the five month time period.

However, taking into account that the communicant in his letter of 27 August indicated that he would be willing to agree to a two week extension, until 29 September, the Committee would be willing to receive Ireland's response on or before that date.

The Committee notes that if the response is provided later than 29 September, it will mean that it will not be possible for the Committee to consider it at its upcoming 50th meeting (Geneva, 6-9 October), which will cause delays in the progress of this communication, and thus potentially impact upon the Committee's ability to manage its large caseload, and limited meeting time, efficiently.

The Committee would thus be grateful to receive Ireland's response to the communication by 29 September.

If you would like to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Fiona Marshall



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