Charlotte Griffiths
20/07/2006 10:34

To: hib@md.dep.no
cc: Jeremy Wates/UNECE/GVA/UNO@UNGVA, George Kowalski/UNECE/GVA/UNO@UNGVA, Frederic Romig/UNECE/GVA/UNO@UNGVA, laszlo.molnar@energiakozpont.hu
Subject: UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy and Aarhus Convention

Dear Ms. Bjurstrom

Thank you for your letter of 16 June 2006, kindly inviting the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy to take part in the consultation process being undertaken by the Task Force of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I would like to confirm the "in principle" interest of the Committee on Sustainable Energy in taking part in this initiative. The production and use of energy has significant environmental consequences and hence we have a wide range of programmes under the Committee on Sustainable Energy that seek to mitigate these environmental consequences - good examples of this are our activities on energy efficiency and coal mine methane.

Before we are able to proceed further we will need to put this issue before the Committee for discussion and approval. The next annual session of the Committee is scheduled to be held here in Geneva, 28-30 November. We will be pleased to invite the Secretary of the Aarhus Convention, Mr. Jeremy Wates, to address the Committee meeting on this issue under the Agenda Item "Cooperation and Coordination with Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission". In view of this timing, we will unfortunately not be in a position to respond to the questionnaire by your deadline of 17 September.

Once again, please accept our thanks for inviting the Committee on Sustainable Energy to engage with you on this important topic.

Kind regards

Charlotte Griffiths

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