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**Aphrodite Smagadi
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee
Economic Commission for Europe
Environment, Housing and Land
Management Division
Bureau 348
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland**

17 May 2013

Dear Ms Smagadi,

Response to letter of 22 April 2013, regarding compliance by the United Kingdom and the European Union with provisions of the Convention in relation to the implementation of the renewable energy programme in Scotland (ACCC/C/2012/68)

“Please provide the Committee with concrete information on when, where and how public consultation regarding the West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route took place.”

1. As the West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route (WLATHR) acts primarily as a timber haul route, the route was subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the EIA (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999. Public consultation about the route was carried out as part of the EIA process.
2. The consultation was advertised in the local press (Oban Times) in December 2008 (*Annex 1*). The Environmental Statement was available to be seen at the Local Authority office (Oban) or the Forestry Commission office (Lochgilphead) and members of the public could also obtain copies directly from the developer (Greenpower).
3. The Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council (including Mrs Metcalfe) responded to the consultation through a series of written and verbal representations and supplementaries covering a wide range of issues (*Annex 2*).

4. In April 2009, Forestry Commission Scotland met with the developers, statutory agencies and local community interests (including Mrs Metcalfe acting as a local community council representative) to discuss issues regarding the Environmental Statement and the timber haul route.
5. The follow up correspondence from this meeting explains that as the route is primarily a timber haul route, it is being considered under the EIA (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 (*Annex 3*).
6. A meeting on site was also held with Mrs Metcalfe and the Forestry Commission Scotland civil engineer to discuss concerns regarding the borrow pits required for the road (*Annex 4*).
7. The Environmental Statement was revised and resubmitted in September 2009.
8. In October 2009, Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council submitted comments on the revised Environmental Statement (*Annex 5*).
9. There has been a considerable amount of correspondence with Mrs Metcalfe and other Community Council members throughout this process, demonstrating that they were aware of and able to participate in the public consultation about the route.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ceri Morgan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ceri Morgan