

To: aarhus compliance <aarhus.compliance@unece.org>  
From: Aarhus Punto Focal <Aarhus-buzon@magrama.es>  
Date: 01/21/2014 04:07PM  
Subject: RE: Decision IV/9f - additional information from C24 communicant

*(See attached file: CARTA MURCIA.pdf)*

Dear colleagues,

In response to the last e-mail from the C-24 Communicant (AJÁ), this National Focal Point would like to make the following clarifications:

1. - On fees for information related to urban planning and building.

As the Compliance Committee is well aware, **the Murcia City Council did change the land use information tax regulation** after the reiterated petitions from the part of this Ministry. Indeed, on January 1, 2011, a new municipal Ordinance was adopted providing for specific regulation of issuing copies of documents affected by the Aarhus Convention. Specifically, Article 8.c of the Ordinance provides for exemption from payment of the fee when supplying copies of environmental information in less than 20 A4 pages or sending this information electronically. Besides, paragraph 7 of section 1 of the Annex "Tarifas" (prices) provides a 50% reduction in reproduction and delivery of environmental information, the total that would result from applying the same rates established in Ordinance 1.3 regulating the fees for the provision of urban services.

A full-text copy of the new Ordinance is available [here](#).

That been clarified, we have recently been reported by the C-24 Communicant himself about some alleged misinterpretation of the new Ordinance, in the sense that the Council is apparently charging 2,15 € per photocopy containing information related to urban planning. In this regard, during our meeting with AJÁ, this National Focal Point agreed to send a new official letter to the Murcia City Council recalling once again the CC findings, the Decision IV/9(f) and the general obligations under the Aarhus Convention and the national Law.

The letter was indeed sent (see attached file) and it also included a reference to the information on fees circulated by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) to raise awareness among local entities.

2. - On public participation time-frames.

According to the information provided by the Communicant in the afore-mentioned meeting, and according also to information by some local newspapers and the website of the governing party in the region of Murcia, **the regional Government is considering to amend the Law on Land Use**.

From the part of this National Focal Point, as soon as we have access to the draft of the amendment, an official communication will be sent to the Murcia Regional Aarhus Focal Point stressing again the importance of taking on board the recommendations of the CC regarding public participation time-frames.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further clarification on our response.

Best regards,

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