

Dear Ms. Marshall,

**Re: Communication concerning compliance by the United Kingdom with the provisions of the Convention in connection with planning consent for the redevelopment of a former hospital site (ACCC/C/2015/131)**

Thank-you for your letter dated October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in which you asked for our views on the need for a hearing in the communication at caption. We have made progress looking into the issue but would like to request an extension of the deadline until the 6<sup>th</sup> November to properly consider the matter.

We are in the process of interdepartmental discussions and seeking the views of external counsel. As this communication has laid dormant for a considerable period it has taken some time to examine the relevant documents and bring together the right officials. We are therefore not in position to confirm whether the UK will or will not require a hearing at this time.

As I have stated in previous correspondence, we would like to note the limited time with which we were given to provide our views on the need for a hearing. The two-week period which was allotted to us has again proved challenging and we would be very grateful if this was something the Committee could take into consideration in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation in advance and I hope the Committee will show understanding given the circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Danielle Angelopoulou

**Team leader – Europe Strategy and Capabilities and Aarhus UK Focal point**

EU Strategy and Negotiations | EU & International Trade Directorate

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**