

6 October 2020

Ms. Fand Cooney
RTS Action Group
Ireland

Ms. Aoife Joyce
Department of Communications, Climate Action
and Environment
Ireland

Dear Ms. Cooney,
Dear Ms. Joyce,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Ireland with the Convention in connection with the Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement (electrical substation) Project (ACCC/C/2015/132)

Having considered the information received from each party to date, the Compliance Committee is of the view that it is in a position to commence its deliberations on the substance of the above communication without holding a hearing.

Before doing so, however, the Compliance Committee has asked me to write to seek the view of each party on whether you consider there to be a particular reason why a hearing is needed prior to the Committee commencing its deliberations on its draft findings in this case.

I would be grateful to receive your views by **Tuesday, 20 October 2020** on whether you consider a hearing in this case is needed. If you consider a hearing would indeed be necessary, please provide a brief explanation (maximum one A4 page) of the reason for this in your reply.

If the Party concerned and the communicant are each of the view that a hearing is not needed, the Committee will commence its deliberations on the substance of the communication at its upcoming 68th meeting (Geneva, 23-27 November 2020). In advance of that meeting, each party will be invited to provide any final written submissions it would wish the Committee to consider when commencing its deliberations.

Alternatively, if by 20 October 2020 either party has informed the secretariat that it is of the view that a hearing is required in this case, the Committee will consider the explanation provided by that party of why a hearing is needed and if, after taking into account that explanation, the Committee determines that indeed a hearing should be held, the hearing will be scheduled for one of its upcoming meetings. The final decision on whether to hold a hearing rests with the Committee.

You are invited to consult paragraphs 182-187 of the Guide to the Compliance Committee, available at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=54512>, for further details.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you have any questions regarding the above.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva