

16 November 2018

Ismael Antonio López Pérez
Asociación Autónoma e Ambiental Petón do Lobo
Silleda, Pontevedra
Spain

Ana Martina Varela Velo
Asociación Amigos y Amigas de los Bosques “O Ouriel do Anllóns”
Silleda, Pontevedra
Spain

Dear Mr. López Pérez, dear Ms. Varela Velo,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Spain with the provisions of the Convention in relation to access to information and public participation on mining concessions (ACCC/C/2017/153)

At its sixty-second meeting (Geneva, 5-9 November 2018), the Committee considered the Party's response of 28 August 2018 to your communication ACCC/C/2017/153. The Committee noted that in its response the Party concerned has challenged the admissibility of the communication. The Committee accordingly agreed to invite the communicants to comment on the Party concerned's submissions on admissibility and in particular, those in paragraphs 88-97, 144-154, 183-203 and 228 of its response.

You may at the same time comment on other parts of the Party's response should you wish to do so. However, if you intend to do so, any such comments should be to clarify points which you consider have been incorrectly explained by the Party concerned in its response or to inform the Committee of important new developments relevant to the communication. Please note that you should not restate what has already been said in the communication or in other documents that you have provided to the Committee. Nor should you introduce new allegations or seek to expand the scope of your communication through your comments.

The Committee would be very grateful to receive any comments you wish to make on the Party concerned's response on or before **Friday, 14 December 2018**. Please send your comments to aarhus.compliance@un.org, copying the other party. The other party will then have until **Friday, 11 January 2019** to provide the Committee with any comments it wishes to make on your comments. The Committee will consider all comments received by the above deadlines when deciding how to proceed further.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr. Joaquin Carril Martinez, Deputy Director of International Relations and EU Affairs – National Focal Point