

12 November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Invitation to videoconference at the Compliance Committee's 68<sup>th</sup> meeting  
regarding request ACCC/M/2017/3 (European Union)**

In my letter to the Party concerned of 21 January 2020, I indicated that, in keeping with its functions as set out in paragraphs 36(a) and 37(a) of the annex to decision I/7, the Committee stood ready to provide advice and assistance to the European Union with respect to any draft measures through which it proposes to implement paragraph 123 of the Committee's findings on communication ACCC/C/2008/32 (Part II).

The Committee has thus taken note of the letter from the Party concerned dated 5 November 2020 seeking the Committee's advice on the legislative proposal to amend the Aarhus Regulation and the Communication on access to justice in national courts in environmental matters adopted by the European Commission on 14 October 2020. The Committee confirms its willingness to provide the requested advice.

With a view to preparing its draft advice, the Committee proposes to hold a videoconference regarding request ACCC/M/2017/3 at its upcoming 68<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to hear the views of the Party concerned, communicants and observers on the extent to which the legislative proposal, and accompanying Communication, would fulfil the requirements of the Committee's findings on communication ACCC/C/2008/32 (Part II).

The videoconference is scheduled for **Wednesday, 25 November 2020**, starting at 10:30 am CET and concluding by 4.30 pm CET.

The videoconference, which will be held in open session, will be interspersed with at least one closed session in which the Committee will deliberate on its draft advice. It is envisaged that the first part of the videoconference in open session will take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair;
- opening of the hearing by the curator for the case (10-15 minutes);
- concise presentations by the Party concerned, communicants and observers, including possible joint proposals (10-15 minutes each);
- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned, communicants and observers (30 minutes);
- final comments by communicants and observers (5-10 minutes);
- final comments by the Party concerned (5-10 minutes).

Further details concerning the timetable for the hearing will be provided in the provisional timeline for the meeting to be published nearer the time on the webpage for the sixty-eighth meeting, <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=53239>.

During the second part of the videoconference (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to the Party concerned, communicants and observers or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached.

I would be grateful if you would confirm to [aarhus.compliance@un.org](mailto:aarhus.compliance@un.org) before **Wednesday, 18 November** that you or a representative will participate in the videoconference. All participants wishing to attend the meeting should thereafter register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/31354/> by Friday, 20 November.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Fiona Marshall

Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

To: Robert Konrad, Directorate-General Environment, European Commission  
ClientEarth, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2008/32  
Mr. Pat Swords, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2010/54  
Observers:  
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear  
Safety, Germany, representing the Presidency of the European Union  
Coalition for Access to Justice for the Environment  
Justice & Environment  
European Environmental Bureau  
Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe  
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation  
Ms. Mariolina Eliantonio  
Mr. Chris Backes  
Mr. Otto Brouwer  
Mr. Joep Wolfhagen

Cc: Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other  
international organizations in Geneva