



**NATIONS UNIES**  
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE  
POUR L'EUROPE

**ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ**  
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

**UNITED NATIONS**  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

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24 December 2008

Mr. James Thornton, CEO  
ClientEarth  
3 Chapel Place, London EC2A 3DQ  
United Kingdom  
Fax: + 44 20 7729 45 68

Dear Mr. Thornton,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Germany with provisions of the Convention in connection with German legislation on access to justice in environmental matters (Ref. ACCC/C/2008/31)**

On 1 December 2008, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received the above communication submitted by you on behalf of non-governmental organization (NGO) ClientEarth, London, United Kingdom, supported by NABU, Berlin, Germany, and addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention regarding compliance by Germany with certain provisions of the Convention. The communication was submitted in accordance with the provisions of chapter VI of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties.

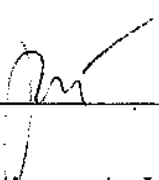
The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2008/31, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the preliminary admissibility of the communication at its twenty-second meeting (17-19 December 2008), has on a preliminary basis determined it to be admissible in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/7. A copy of the preliminary determination on admissibility is attached. Please note, however, that the Committee has not reached any conclusions with respect to the compliance issues referred to in the communication.

In order to facilitate further consideration of the communication, the Committee, at its twenty-second meeting, preliminarily discussed whether and what issues might require further clarification from the Party concerned and/or the communicant. It agreed to continue this discussion through electronic means with a view to agreeing on any

additional questions to the parties concerned at the latest by 19 January 2008. Should the Committee identify any such questions, they will be forwarded to the Party concerned and the communicant in the fourth week of January 2009.

Yours sincerely,



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Jeremy Wates  
Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Cc: Mr. Philipp Behrens, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Encs. Preliminary determination on admissibility  
Copy of letter to Mr. Philipp Behrens, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety  
Datasheet on the communication