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18 May 2009

Mr. Philipp Behrens
Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Division ZG III 4 (H)
Alexanderstrasse 3
D-10178 Berlin
Germany
Fax: +49 1888 305 3331

Dear Mr. Behrens,

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)

We are writing on behalf of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee to confirm that, in line with the suggestion conveyed by your letter of 26 March 2009 to defer the deadline for responding to the above communication and having regard to the support from the communicant conveyed by letter of 11 May 2009 for a deferral as proposed by the Committee at its twenty-third meeting and communicated by letter of 28 April 2009, the deadline for the response of the Party concerned has been postponed so that it will fall two months after the release of the opinion of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in the related case submitted to the ECJ by the Higher Administrative Court of North Rhine-Westphalia (Ref. 8 D 58/08.AK).

Yours sincerely,

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

Cc: Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations Office in Geneva
Mr. James Thornton, CEO, ClientEarth