

## NATIONS UNIES

## ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ

## UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE POUR L'EUROPE ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Environment, Housing and Land Management Division Bureau 332 Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland Phone: +41-22-917 2384 Fax: +41-22-917 0634 E-mail: jeremy.wates@unece.org Website: www.unece.org/env/pp

24 December 2008

Ms. Anaïs Berthier ClientEarth 90 Boulevard Emile Jacqmain 1000 Brussels, Belgium Fax: + 32 2 340 09 77

Dear Ms. Berthier,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the European Community with provisions of the Convention in connection with access to members of the public to review procedures (Ref. ACCC/C/2008/32)

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, Brussels, Belgium, supported by NGOs AJA (Spain), Bon Beter Leefmilieu (Belgium), CEE Bankwatch, Ecologistas en Action (Spain), France Nature Environment (France), Friends of the Irish Environment (Ireland), Greenpeace International, The International Fund for Animal Welfare, Instituto International de Dreho y Medio Ambiente (Spain), NABU (Germany), Oceana, Oekobuero (Austria), SOS Grand Bleu and by Mr. Ludwig Kraemer (Germany), and addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention regarding compliance by the European Community 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/2008/32, 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,

n n. Jeremy Wates

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

Cc: Mr. Charles Pirotte, Aarhus Convention Focal Point, Environment Directorate-General, European Commission

Encs. Preliminary determination on admissibility
Copy of letter to Mr. Charles Pirotte, Aarhus Convention Focal Point, Environment
Directorate-General, European Commission
Datasheet on the communication