

From: <Mr. Robert Konrad>
To: <Fiona.Marshall>,
Cc: <Angelika.Wiedner>, <Daniele.Franzone>, <Patrick.DIETZ>, <Liam-Joseph.Cashmanu>,
<Affef.GARBAA>, <Eleni.LIOLIOU>
Date: 29/07/2016 17:29
Subject: RE: ACCC/C/2008/32 (EU) - request for extension of deadline for comments on draft findings

Dear Ms Marshall,

Thank you for your message asking us to further outline the reasons for our request for prolongation of the deadline in compliance case ACCC/C/2008/32 against the EU.

As we mentioned in our earlier prolongation request from 30 June 2016, the EU observations in Aarhus compliance cases need to be agreed in the process of inter-service consultation. This procedure is mandatory and foreseen in Commission Decision C(2014)8382 of 1.12.2014 on Working Arrangements for the Representation of the European Union in Compliance Cases under the Aarhus Convention.

These procedural rules foresee first an informal consultation of concerned Commission services, followed by preparation of the draft EU reply and its signature by Director-General of the Directorate General for Environment.

In the case ACCC/C/2008/32, we are currently at this stage.

The draft EU reply then undergoes formal inter-service consultation, to be launched after the agreement of Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness and First-Vice-President for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The standard deadline for inter-service consultation is extended during the month of August during which a special regime applies due to holidays. Afterwards, the EU reply is finalised in view of the comments in inter-service consultation and any meetings among services.

Therefore, we consider that mid-to-end October would be the earliest possible date for us to submit these observations.

Please rest assured at this occasion that we are doing our utmost to provide the EU reply as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Robert KONRAD
Head of Unit



European Commission
DG Environment
ENV.E.4 – Compliance & Better Regulation
BU-9 2/001
B-1160 Brussels/Belgium
+32 2 299 86 33