

NATIONS UNIES

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UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE POUR L'EUROPE ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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23 April 2012

Ms. Barbara Anning
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EU and International Coordination
Area 1B, Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
United Kingdom

Mr. Justin Neal Fish Legal Eastwood House 6 Rainbow St. Leominster Herefordshire HR& 8DQ United Kingdom

> Dear Ms. Anning, Dear Mr. Neal,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom with provisions of the Convention in connection with access to information held by privatized water companies (Ref. ACCC/C/2010/55)

At its thirty-sixth meeting (27-30 March 2012), the Committee took note of the letter of the communicant of 24 January 2012, informing the Committee about the questions to be referred to the Court of Justice of the European Union and expressing its concern at the prospect that the case would be still pending for a couple of years. Using its electronic decision-making procedure, the Committee had instructed the secretariat to seek the views of the parties on the possibility to discuss the communication at the Committee's thirty-sixth meeting. Taking into account the replies of the communicant and the Party concerned on 17 and 20 February 2012, respectively, the Committee had decided not to discuss the communication at that meeting. The Committee considered the situation and decided that it would suspend any further consideration of the communication until the final decision on the case is issued.

In the meantime, you are invited to keep the Committee informed on the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

Aphrodite Smagadi

Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

cc: Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Mr. Guy Linley-Adams, Solicitor acting on behalf of SmartSource Drainage and Water Limited

Mr. Peter Ashford, Osborne Clarke, on behalf of English and Welsh water companies