



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate C - Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency
C.1 - Renewables and CCS policy

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Brussels,
ENER C1/JB/ss D(2012) 244123

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Dear Sir,

Thank you for your mail in relation to the public consultation conducted in preparation of the Renewable Energy Strategy to be published this year.

The Commission is committed to an inclusive approach when developing and implementing EU policies. This means that the Commission consults as widely as possible on major policy initiatives, including both legislative acts and Communications.

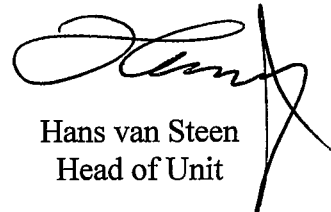
The general principles and minimum standards for consultations are laid down in the Commission Communication "Towards a reinforced culture of consultation and dialogue - General principles and minimum standards for consultation of interested parties by the Commission"¹.

This document explains the rationale and key principles of the Commission's consultation procedure. It also clarifies the way in which contributions received during a consultation process are to be taken into account and how feedback is to be provided to participants. In this respect it reiterates that the main mechanism for providing feedback to participants in consultations will be through an official Commission document to be approved by the College of Commissioners, i.e. the explanatory memoranda accompanying legislative proposals or, as in this case, the Communication to be adopted by the Commission. On the other hand, the idea of providing feedback on an individual basis is not compatible with the requirement of effectiveness of the decision-making process. Moreover, it is recalled that the Commission's decision-making is based on the principle of collegiality, that is to say only the College of Commissioners is entitled to weigh up the pros and cons put forward in a consultation process and to adopt a final position in the Community interest.

¹ COM (2002) 704.

As far as your remarks concerning access to justice and Article 11 of Regulation 1367/2006² are concerned, these do not appear to be related to the public consultation in question.

Yours sincerely,



Hans van Steen
Head of Unit

² Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies, OJ L 264 of 25.9.2006.