



NATIONS UNIES

COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE
POUR L'EUROPE

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ

ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ
КОМИССИЯ

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Tel: +41 (0)22 917 4226 (direct)
+41 (0)22 917 1234 (Palais des Nations)
E-mail: aarhus.compliance@unece.org

Palais des Nations, Room 429-4
CH-1211 GENEVA 10

Ref: ACCC/C/2015/134

10 March 2016

Joseph Van Der Stegen
Attaché of Public Service of Wallonia,
Department of European Policies and International Agreements
Federal Government
Brussels
Belgium

Dear Mr. Van Der Stegen,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Belgium with the Convention in connection with timeframes for responding to information requests (ACCC/C/2015/134)

On 9 October 2015, 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 addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Belgium with the provisions of the Convention in connection with timeframes for responding to information requests. 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.

Please find enclosed a copy of the communication, which is being forwarded to you at the request of the Committee in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to decision I/7.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2015/134, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. The main documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee's web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/pubcom.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its fifty-first meeting (15 - 18 December 2015), 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.

Having regard to paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7, you are kindly invited to submit to the Committee, as soon as possible but at the latest within five months of the date of this letter (i.e. by **10 August 2016**), any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the communication and describing any response that may have been made in the meantime.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

- Cc: Permanent Delegation of Belgium to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr. Alain Lebrun, representing the communicants of communication ACCC/C/2015/34
- Enc: Communication ACCC/C/2015/134 (including 5 supporting documents)
Preliminary determination on admissibility