

22 March 2018

Mar Fernandez Merlo
Head, General Subdirectorate of International Relations and Community Affairs
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment
Madrid, Spain

Dear Ms. Fernandez Merlo,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Spain with the provisions of the Convention in relation to access to information and public participation on mining concessions (ACCC/C/2017/153)

On 24 July 2017, 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 Spain with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged failure to provide access to information and public participation in relation to mining concessions in Galicia. 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/2017/153 which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. All documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee's web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/com.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its sixtieth meeting (Geneva, 12-15 March 2018), 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 **22 August 2018**), 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 Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr. Ismael Antonio López Pérez, Asociación Autnómica e Ambiental Petón do Lobo, and
Ms. Ana Martina Varela Velo, Asociación Amigos y Amigas de los Bosques “O Ouriel do Anllóns” – communicants of communication ACCC/C/2017/153
- Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility