

From: "Robert Latimer"
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Date: 17/06/2017 12:20
Subject: FW: ACCC 56th Meeting: Decision V/9n (UK)

Dear Mr Bechtel

Re: Decision V/9n (UK) – Party concerned reply to questions raised by observers.

Thank you for your email dated 15 June 2017 and the attached copy from the Party concerned in relation to questions raised by some observers in the context of Decision V/9n.

I do want to comment as a communicant and say that the party has not yet answered my questions although it is almost two months since I asked them. It seems somewhat out of cant but accepted that observers can have their questions answered by the Party yet a communicant, (a member of the public) cannot. The public have to assume that the Aarhus Convention was set up by people with good intentions about the environment, maybe they were also encountering the same problems as we are when trying to obtain environmental information from their government.

I draw my assumption from where it is stated "*provisions of the Aarhus Convention on public access to information, public participation in decision-making and public access to justice in environmental matters*" I have found none of these apply in the UK. The attached copy from the party only answers the questions asked by the likes of FOE, RSPB and ClientEarth, not the public but this again shows government policy in relation to the Aarhus Convention. If the public are not to participate then it is only right they are told that fact, playing about and discussing costs is only a distraction as there can be no possibility on earth where a member of the public could take their case to Court after reading the John Muir Trust's letter to the Convention dated 26 May 2017 on costs, yet the Party seems to ignore what they don't want to hear.

I hope the Compliance Committee takes real notice of Mr Azam's letter because I believe the Aarhus Conventions credibility depends on their decision, either UK has signed up to the communication or it has not, but more, when it comes to

cost, like the lady said (I apologise I did not catch her name) during the telephone conference, it had ruined her life, how can the cost to her be estimated?

I await your comments.

Kind regards

Bob Latimer