

7 October 2020

Dr. Gabriela Scanu  
Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea  
Italy

Mr. Alessandro Giadrossi  
WWF Italia  
Italy

Dear Dr. Scanu,  
Dear Mr. Giadrossi,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Italy with provisions of the Convention in relation to judicial fees (ACCC/C/2015/130)**

As you may recall, the Compliance Committee had originally scheduled the hearing to discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2015/130 at its sixty-sixth meeting (Geneva, 9-13 March 2020), but had to defer the hearing in the light of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In June 2020 I wrote to seek your views as to whether, given the continuing pandemic, you would have any objection to the Committee holding the hearing via video conferencing at its sixty-seventh meeting (Geneva, 6-10 July 2020). After considering the explanation provided by the Party concerned, the Chair of the Committee agreed to postpone the hearing until the Committee's 68<sup>th</sup> meeting (23-27 November 2020).

Given that the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, the Committee's 68<sup>th</sup> meeting on 23-27 November will again have to be held virtually. In this situation, in order not to delay the progress of the case any further and having considered the submissions and other documents received from each party to date, the Compliance Committee is of the view that it is in a position to commence its deliberations on the substance of the above communication at its 68<sup>th</sup> meeting without holding a hearing.

However, before doing so, the Compliance Committee has asked me to write to seek the view of each party on whether you consider there to be a particular reason why a hearing would be needed prior to the Committee commencing its deliberations on its draft findings in this case.

I would be grateful to receive your views by **Wednesday, 21 October 2020** on whether you consider a hearing in this case is needed. If you consider a hearing would indeed be necessary, please provide a brief explanation (maximum one A4 page) of the reason for this in your reply.

If the Party concerned and the communicant are each of the view that a hearing is not in fact needed, the Committee will commence its deliberations on the substance of the communication at its upcoming 68<sup>th</sup> meeting (Geneva, 23-27 November 2020). In advance of that meeting, each party will be invited to provide any final written submissions it would wish the Committee to consider when commencing its deliberations.

Alternatively, if by 21 October 2020 either party has informed the secretariat that it is of the view that a hearing is required in this case, the Committee will consider the explanation provided by that party of why a hearing is needed and if, after taking into account that explanation, the Committee determines that indeed a hearing should be held, the hearing will be scheduled for one of its upcoming meetings. The final decision on whether to hold a hearing rests with the Committee.

You are invited to consult paragraphs 182-187 of the Guide to the Compliance Committee, available at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=54512>, for further details.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you have any questions regarding the above.

Yours sincerely,



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Fiona Marshall  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Delegation of Italy to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva