

21 January 2020

Robert Konrad and Zsuzsanna Belenyessy  
DG Environment  
European Commission  
Brussels, Belgium

Dear Mr. Konrad and Ms. Belenyessy,

**Re: Request by the Meeting of the Parties concerning compliance by the European Union  
(ACCC/M/2017/3)**

The Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) has asked me to write to you.

The Committee recalls that, pursuant to article 2(1) of Council Decision (EU) 2018/771, the Council of the European Union has requested the Commission to submit, by 30 September 2020, if appropriate in view of the outcomes of the study requested through article 1(1) of the Decision, a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006, or otherwise to inform the Council on other measures required as a follow-up to the study.<sup>1</sup>

Cognisant of the above timeframe, the Committee has asked me to inform you that, in keeping with its functions as set out in paragraphs 36(a) and 37(a) of the annex to decision I/7, the Committee stands ready to provide advice and assistance to the European Union with respect to any draft measures through which the Party concerned proposes to implement paragraph 123 of the Committee's findings on communication ACCC/C/2008/32 (Part II), should the Party concerned wish the Committee to do so.

In this regard, the Committee recalls its mission to Brussels in March 2017 during which representatives of the Committee met with Commission officials and the Council's Working Party on the Environment to clarify and explain for the Party concerned and the EU member States the Committee's then recently adopted findings on communication ACCC/C/2008/32 (Part II). Should the Party concerned consider it may be useful, the Committee would be willing to again meet with senior officials of the Party concerned in Brussels and/or the Working Party on the Environment in order to provide advice and assistance during the current critical phase of preparing the draft measures required as a follow-up to the study.

The Committee has also asked me at this time to remind you that in order to be taken into consideration by the Committee in its report on request ACCC/M/2017/3 to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, all measures to implement paragraph 3 of decision V/9g and paragraph 123 of the Committee's findings on communication ACCC/C/2008/32 (Part II) must be taken, and reported on, by no later than 1 October 2020.

---

<sup>1</sup> See <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018D0881&from=EN>

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the above, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,



---

Fiona Marshall  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva  
Mr. Pat Swords, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2010/54  
ClientEarth, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2008/32  
Observers of communication ACCC/C/2008/32:  
Ms. Carol Day, on behalf of the Coalition for Access to Justice for the Environment  
Ms. Kristína Šabová, on behalf of Frank Bold Society  
Mr. Csaba Kiss, on behalf of Justice and Environment  
Mr. Jeremy Wates, European Environmental Bureau  
Mr. Otto Brouwer and Mr. Joep Wolfhagen  
Mr. Josia Hort, on behalf of Naturskyddsforeningen  
Dr. Mariolina Eliantonio and Dr. Chris Backes