

**Statement on Draft decision VI/8j concerning
compliance by Spain with its obligations under
the Convention, ECE/MP.PP/2017/29**

Thank you Madame Chair,

I am Ana Barreira from Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (IIDMA) a Spanish Environmental Law organization

We welcome the urgent request to Spain in paragraph 3 this draft decision to eliminate the obstacles to the full implementation of articles paragraphs 4 and 5 regarding legal aid for NGOs. This is still a burden in Spain. Our legal order contains contradictory provisions between our Aarhus Law and our Legal Aid Law. Although some legal aid commissions from Autonomous Communities and Courts interpret the right on access to justice and to legal aid in line with the Aarhus Convention, there are still a general practice by those commissions and courts to deny access to legal aid to environmental NGOs and therefore access to justice. As a consequence, a legal reform to our legal aid law is a matter of urgency.