

4 February 2021

Ms. Christine Gibson  
Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

Ms. Danielle Angelopoulou  
Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
United Kingdom

Mr. Robert Konrad  
Directorate-General Environment  
European Commission

Dear Ms. Gibson,  
Dear Ms. Angelopoulou,  
Dear Mr. Konrad,

**Re: Determination of inadmissibility of communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom and the European Union with provisions of the Convention with respect to access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters in Northern Ireland (ACCC/C/2020/184)**

On 2 November 2020, 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 from Ms. Christine Gibson addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by the United Kingdom and the European Union with respect to access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters in Northern Ireland.

At its sixty-ninth meeting (12-16 April 2021), the Compliance Committee considered the preliminary admissibility of the communication. During the meeting the Committee heard the views of the communicant on the preliminary admissibility of the communication, and also the views of the Parties concerned. After considering in closed session the information received, the Committee determined the communication to be inadmissible.

In delivering its determination of inadmissibility in open session during the final session of its sixty-ninth meeting, the Committee noted that the communication made more than 25 allegations, most of them very sweeping and unsubstantiated, with respect to access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters in Northern Ireland. The Committee determined the allegations contained in the communication to be inadmissible on the following grounds:

- (a) Allegations A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, Q, T-U, Y, Z and AA were not supported by corroborating information as required by paragraph 19 of the annex to decision I/7. These allegations were accordingly inadmissible under paragraph 20(d) of the annex to decision I/7 for being incompatible with the provisions of decision I/7.
- (b) Allegations O, P, R, S, V, W, X were inadmissible under paragraph 20(d) of the annex to decision I/7 for being incompatible with the provisions of the Convention.

The text of decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties is available at: <https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/documents/mop1/ece.mp.pp.2.add.8.e.pdf>

If the communicant considers that the Committee's determination that the communication is inadmissible was based on a manifest error, she may request a reconsideration of the Committee's determination of admissibility. Any such request must be submitted to the secretariat, with a reasoning of no more than 1200 words (2 pages A4 size), no later than five weeks from today, i.e., Thursday, 11 March 2021. Please note that a request for reconsideration is not an opportunity to provide information on either subsequent developments or evidence that could have been provided earlier.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



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Fiona Marshall

Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Grace Adisa Solanke and Alex Winstone, DEFRA, United Kingdom  
Alison Jeynes, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom  
Zsuzsanna Belenyessy, Directorate-General Environment, European Union  
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva  
Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva