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Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 7:52 PM

To: ECE-Aarhus-Compliance <aarhus.compliance@un.org>

Cc: Fiona Marshall <fiona.marshall@un.org>

Subject: Case ACCC/M/2017/3 – progress update since the Third (2020) Progress Report by the EU on cases ACCC/C/2010/54 and ACCC/C/2008/32

Dear Fiona and Colleagues,

To facilitate the preparation of the Compliance Committee's report to the Meeting of the Parties in October this year in case ACCC/M/2017/3, please find below a brief update on progress since the Third Progress Report submitted on 30 September 2020.

Case ACCC/C/2008/32

As a follow up to (1) the Third Progress Report referred above with regard to case ACCC/C/2008/32, and our subsequent updates and communications, including (2) our 14 October 2020 update enclosing a legislative proposal to amend the Aarhus Regulation and a communication on access to justice in Member States, and (3) our 5 November 2020 request for advice (and related communications), we would like to inform the Compliance Committee that the legislative proposal to amend the Aarhus Regulation is still ongoing. The Council adopted its General Approach on 17 December 2020, and the Parliament adopted its negotiating position on 21 May 2021.

Case ACCC/C/2010/54

To complete and update the Third Progress Report with regard to case ACCC/C/2010/54, we would like to inform the Compliance Committee that on 17 September 2020 the Commission published a Communication on '[An EU-wide assessment of National Energy and Climate Plans](#)' following submission by all Member States of their final integrated energy and climate plans (NECPs) containing an integrated vision of the energy and climate transition for the next ten years. As indicated by the Commission, this has been an unprecedented process, as the plans have been subject to extensive consultation with stakeholders, civil society and citizens to ensure ownership and wide public support. In the context of renewables, the Commission signals that early involvement of local authorities for continued public consultation and transparent planning is of utmost importance.

Alongside this Communication, the Commission assessed the NECPs presented by the 27 Member States and it published, on 14 October 2020, the corresponding [27 Staff Working Documents \(SWD\)](#) which extensively assess NECPs in light of achieving the 2030 climate and energy targets and objectives. For each Member State, the Commission has verified whether or not public involvement has taken place at national level in the preparation of the final NECPs. In each SWD, this is contained under the heading '*preparation and submission of the final plans*'. The aim is to facilitate public scrutiny as regards the obligations of Member States themselves under the Aarhus Convention.

For your convenience, all documents referenced are also attached to this email in PDF format.

Kind regards,

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