

5 November 2021

Ms. Margarida Marcelino  
Portuguese Environmental Agency  
Ministry of the Environment, Territory Management and Energy  
Portugal

Dear Ms. Marcelino,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Portugal in connection with access to environmental information regarding the Mina do Barroso open-pit mine (ACCC/C/2021/186)**

On 2 May 2021, 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 addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Portugal with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged failure to provide access to environmental information regarding the Mina do Barroso open-pit mine. The communication was submitted in accordance with the provisions of chapter VI of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties.

The communication has been registered under the symbol ACCC/C/2021/186, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. All documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee's web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/com.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its seventy-second meeting (Geneva, 18-21 October 2021), has on a preliminary basis determined it to be admissible in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/7. A copy of the preliminary determination on admissibility is attached. Please note, however, that the Committee has not reached any conclusions with respect to the compliance issues referred to in the communication.

Having regard to paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7, you are kindly invited to submit to the Committee, as soon as possible but at the latest within five months of the date of this letter (i.e. by **5 April 2022**), any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the communication and describing any response that may have been made in the meantime.

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: Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva  
Mr. Xoan Evans Pin, Fundação Montescola, communicant of communication  
ACCC/C/2021/186  
Mr. Fernando Queiroga, observer  
Mr. Nik Völker, observer
- Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility