

17 November 2021

Ms. Evangelia Stamouli  
Office of the General Secretary  
Directorate of International Relations and European Activities  
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change  
Greece

Ms. Viveka Raftopoulou  
Department of European and International Environmental Affairs  
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change  
Greece

Dear Ms. Stamouli, dear Ms. Raftopoulou,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Greece with the Convention regarding access to justice for permits granted or extended by legislative acts (ACCC/C/2017/148)**

I write to inform you that the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee proposes to hold the hearing to discuss substance of communication ACCC/C/2017/148 at its seventy-third meeting to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 13–16 December 2021.

The hearing of the above communication is scheduled for **Wednesday, 15 December 2021**, starting at 10:30 am and concluding by 4.30 pm.

In accordance with chapter IX of the annex to decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, both parties are entitled to participate in the hearing on the subject matter of the communication, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee.

According to the Committee's normal practice, the hearing of the communication, which will be held in open session, will be interspersed with at least one closed session in which the Committee will begin the process of preparing draft findings. It is envisaged that the first part of the hearing in open session will take the following form:

- Introduction by the Chair;
- Opening of the hearing by the curator for the case (10-15 minutes);
- Concise presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned (10-15 minutes each);
- Questions from Committee, replies from the Party concerned and communicant (30 minutes);
- Comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair (10 minutes);
- Final comments by the communicant (5-10 minutes);
- Final comments by the Party concerned (5-10 minutes).

Further details concerning the timetable for the hearing will be provided in the provisional timeline for the meeting to be published on the meeting webpage nearer the time.

During the second part of the hearing (i.e. following the closed session), the Committee may pose additional questions to the parties or invite reactions to any tentative conclusions it has reached. In accordance with its usual practice, the Committee may also invite the Party concerned to indicate whether, should the Committee ultimately find the Party to be in non-compliance, it would agree to the Committee making its recommendations to it directly, in accordance with paragraph 36 (b) of the annex to decision I/7.

I would be grateful if you could confirm by **Monday, 29 November 2021** that a representative of Greece will participate in the hearing. Thereafter, each participant wishing to attend the meeting should register online at: <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Public-Participation/events/361661> before **6 December 2021**.

The Committee has indicated that the meeting should not be used as an occasion to introduce substantial amounts of information that could or should have been provided to it at an earlier stage, unless this is unavoidable (e.g. because it concerns very recent developments). Should you wish to present any further substantial written material related to the matter, you should take into account that where such information is received less than two weeks before the scheduled meeting, it is doubtful whether the Committee would be able to take it into consideration when it is discussing the matter, even where the information is provided in English.

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 Greece to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva  
Dominique Doyle, ClientEarth, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2017/148  
George Chasiotis, WWF Greece, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2017/148