

5 April 2022

Mr. Jaroslaw Mielnik
Ministry of Climate
Poland

Dear Mr. Mielnik,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Poland with regard to public participation and access to justice in relation to water permits (ACCC/C/2017/146)

I write to inform you that the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee will hold a hearing to discuss the substance of communication ACCC/C/2017/146 at its seventy-fifth meeting to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 14–17 June 2022.

The hearing of the above communication is scheduled for **Friday, 17 June 2022**, 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 the Party concerned and the communicant 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 open sessions of the hearing 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 members, replies from the Party concerned and the 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).

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.

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.

I would be grateful if you could confirm by **19 April 2022** that a representative of the Government of Poland will participate in the hearing. Thereafter, each participant wishing to attend the meeting should register online at <https://indico.un.org/event/1000650/> before **7 June 2022**.

Finally, to ensure that the hearing will be as effective as possible, in the coming weeks the Committee will send some questions to the Party concerned and the communicant for their written reply in advance of the hearing. This is so that at the hearing the Committee can focus on those aspects which it would not be possible to clarify fully in writing.

In this regard, the Committee has indicated that the hearing 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 meeting, it is doubtful whether the Committee will 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,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Ms. Agata Szafraniuk, ClientEarth, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2017/146