

5 April 2022

Mr. Jaroslaw Mielnik
Ministry of Climate
Poland

Dear Mr. Mielnik,

Re: Communications ACCC/C/2016/151, ACCC/C/2017/154 and ACCC/C/2018/158 to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Poland in connection with plans and programmes relating to the environment

On 28 March 2022 I wrote to inform you that the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee will hold a joint hearing to discuss the substance of communications ACCC/C/2016/151, ACCC/C/2017/154, and ACCC/C/2018/158 at its seventy-fifth meeting to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 14–17 June 2022. I now write to provide you with further details regarding the hearing.

The joint hearing of communications ACCC/C/2016/151, ACCC/C/2017/154, and ACCC/C/2018/158 is scheduled for **Thursday, 16 June 2022**, starting at 10:00 am and concluding by 5:00 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 communicants are entitled to participate in the hearing on the subject matter of the communications, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee. On this point, as I explained in my letter of 28 March 2022, the Committee will, in due course, prepare separate findings on each communication.

As is the Committee's normal practice, the joint hearing of the communications, 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 its 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 curators for each communication (10-15 minutes total);
- Concise presentations by the communicants (possibly one joint presentation) and by the Party concerned (10-15 minutes each);
- Questions from Committee members, replies by the Party concerned and the communicants (60 minutes);
- Comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair (10 minutes);
- Final comments by the communicants (possibly one joint presentation) (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 communicants 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
Dr. Marcin Stoczkiewicz, ClientEarth, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2016/151
Ms. Agata Szafraniuk, ClientEarth, communicant of communication ACCC/C/2017/154
Mr. Radosław Ślusarczyk, Stowarzyszenie Pracownia, communicant of communication, ACCC/C/2018/158