

12 December 2022

Ms. Justine Solomons-Moat
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Bristol, United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Solomons-Moat,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with respect to public participation in decision-making on free trade agreements (ACCC/C/2022/194)

On 10 August 2022, 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 from the non-governmental organization WWF-UK and others, addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by the United Kingdom with article 8 of the Convention with respect to public participation in decision-making on free trade agreements. 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/2022/194, 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: <https://unece.org/env/pp/cc/communications-from-the-public>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its seventy-sixth meeting (Geneva, 13-16 September 2022), 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 **12 May 2023**), 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,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Mr. Jake White, representative of the communicant of communication ACCC/C/2022/194

Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility