



Ms. Fiona Marshal  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Palais des Nations,  
1211 Geneva 10,  
Switzerland

24<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Ms. Marshal,

**Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Spain with the provisions of the Convention in relation to access to information and public participation on mining concessions (ACCC/C/2017/153).**

In your letter dated January 26, 2023, we were informed that the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee proposed to hold the hearing to discuss substance of communication ACCC/C/2017/153 at its seventy-eighth meeting to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 21–24 March 2023.

Unfortunately, the Spanish Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention has been on medical leave for a couple of months now, and we faced internal difficulties managing this request properly and on time. Moreover, having consulted the competent regional Administration in the case (Xunta de Galicia), we have been informed that, since the matter has been inactive since 2019, the competent authorities will not have enough time to prepare the Committee's session of March 22.

Considering all these matters, we kindly request the Committee to postpone the hearing for case ACCC/C/2017/153, so that it can be dealt at the next meeting of the Compliance Committee (79), scheduled for June 13-16. We confirm that representative of the Government of Spain together with representatives of the regional Administration of the Xunta de Galicia will participate in the hearing during the Committee's June meeting and will be able to discuss substance of communication ACCC/C/2017/153 appropriately.

Finally, I would like to use this communication to request, temporarily and in the absence of our national focal point, Mr. Juan Rubio Rubio, to send all communications related to the Aarhus Convention to the mailboxes [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as well as to Martín Fernández, Deputy Head of International Relations within the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Director for International Relations

Antonio Nieto Magro  
Firmado electrónicamente

