

1 September 2023

Ms. Zsuzsanna Belenyessy
European Commission
DG Environment
Brussels, Belgium

Dear Ms. Belenyessy,

**Re: Decision VII/8f concerning compliance by the European Union
with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention**

The Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) has asked me to write to you as a courtesy to remind you that, in accordance with paragraph 11 (a) of decision VII/8f of the Meeting of the Parties, the European Union is requested to submit to the Committee its first progress report by **1 October 2023** on the measures it has by that date taken, and the results achieved, to implement the recommendations in paragraphs 2(a)-(b), 8(a)-(b) and 10 of decision VII/8f.

The Committee has also asked me to remind you that, as explained by the Chair of the Committee at the twenty-seventh meeting (Geneva, 26-28 June 2023), all the measures to implement decision VII/8f must be taken and reported on by no later than **1 October 2024** in order that they can be taken into consideration by the Committee in its report on decision VII/8f to the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

As you may recall, at its twenty-seventh meeting, the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention took note of the information provided by the Chair of the Compliance Committee and “urged all Parties subject to a decision of the Meeting of the Parties concerning its compliance to implement that decision in a timely and effective manner, especially where the implementation requires legislative measures”.¹

Finally, should the European Union demonstrate to the Committee that it has fully met the requirements of decision VII/8f by the time of its final progress report due on 1 October 2024, the Committee will report that fact to the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties. There would then be no need for a further decision on those points to be adopted at the eighth session.

¹ List of decisions and major outcomes of the meeting, p. 5,
<https://unece.org/environment/documents/2023/07/list-decisions-and-major-outcomes-meeting>

Should you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Communicants of communications ACCC/C/2013/96 and ACCC/C/2014/121
Observers of decision VII/8f