

1 September 2023

Mr. Tom Fuller
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Bristol, United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Fuller,

**Re: Decision VII/8s concerning compliance by the United Kingdom
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 9 (a) of decision VII/8s of the Meeting of the Parties, the United Kingdom 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)-(e), 4 (a)-(b), 6 (a)-(d) and 8 of decision VII/8s.

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/8s 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/8s 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 United Kingdom demonstrate to the Committee that it has fully met the requirements of decision VII/8s 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 Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Communicants of communications: ACCC/C/2008/23, ACCC/C/2008/27, ACCC/C/2008/33, ACCC/C/2010/53, ACCC/C/2011/64, ACCC/C/2011/65, ACCC/C/2012/68, ACCC/C/2012/77, ACCC/C/2013/85, ACCC/C/2013/86, ACCC/C/2013/90, ACCC/C/2013/91, ACCC/C/2015/131, ACCC/C/2016/142, ACCC/C/2017/157 and ACCC/C/2020/180
Observers of decision VII/8s