



NATIONS UNIES
COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE
POUR L'EUROPE

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

Environment, Housing and Land Management Division
Bureau 332
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Phone: +41-22-917 2384
Fax: +41-22-917 0634
E-mail: jeremy.wates@unece.org
Website: www.unece.org/env/pp

15 April 2009

Dr. Åsa Sjöström
EUIC, DEFRA
Area 1B Nobel House, 17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
United Kingdom
+44 207 2385080

Dear Dr. Sjöström,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom with the provisions of the Convention in connection with the expansion of the Belfast City Airport (Ref. ACCC/C/2008/27)

At its twenty-third meeting (31 March - 3 April 2009), the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee discussed the next procedural steps with respect to communication ACCC/C/2008/27 (United Kingdom).

Having taken note of the response received from your Government on 26 February 2009 and of further information provided by the communicant on 26 March 2009, the Committee agreed to discuss the substance of the communication at its twenty-fourth meeting (30 June - 3 July 2009). Specifically, it agreed to discuss the communication on the second day of the meeting (1 July 2009), immediately after the discussion on communication ACCC/C/2008/23, which will also be discussed on that day. An indicative timetable for the meeting will be circulated nearer the time.

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 communicant are entitled to participate in the discussion on the subject matter of the communication, though not in the preparation or adoption of any findings, measures or recommendations of the Committee.

Should you or any other representative of the Party concerned wish to attend the meeting, the attached registration form should be sent to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, attention of Ms. Maricar de la Cruz (fax: +41 22 917 0634), by 16 June 2009.

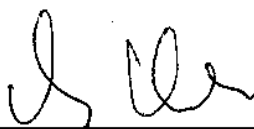
According to a decision of the Committee at its fifth meeting, discussions on communications will generally take the following form:

- introduction by the Chair and opening of the discussion (by the Chair or the special rapporteur);
- presentations by the communicant and by the Party concerned, including possible joint proposals;
- questions from Committee members, responses from the Party concerned and the communicant;
- comments from other observers at the invitation of the Chair;
- final comments by the communicant;
- final comments by the Party concerned.

The Committee has indicated that the meeting 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 scheduled meeting, it is doubtful whether the Committee would 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 me if you require any further information concerning the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates
Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Cc: H.L. McCracken, Cultra Residents' Association

Encs. Registration form for the 24th meeting of the Compliance Committee