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ECONOMIC COMMISSION
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Ref: ACCC/C/2014/100

9 September 2014

Christopher Stanwell
Nabarro LLP
Lacon House
84 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8RW
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Stanwell,

Re: Communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by the United Kingdom in connection with the proposed construction of the "High Speed 2" railway (ACCC/C/2014/100)

On 15 April 2014, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received from you the above communication addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by the United Kingdom with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged failure to comply with article 7 of the Convention regarding the proposed construction of the "High Speed 2" railway from London to the West Midlands, Manchester and Leeds. 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/2014/100, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. The main documentation relating to the communication will be shortly available on the Committee's website at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/pubcom.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its forty-fifth meeting (29 June-2 July 2014), 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F Marshall".

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. Ahmed Azam, Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), United Kingdom

Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility
Datasheet on the communication