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Palais des Nations, Room 429-4
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Ref: ACCC/C/2016/141

6 December 2016

Ms. Aoife Joyce
Environment Policy and Awareness
Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment
Ireland

Dear Ms. Joyce,

Re: Preliminary determination of admissibility of communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning compliance by Ireland with articles 3, 4 and 9 of the Convention in relation to its system for reviewing decisions to refuse access to environmental information (ACCC/C/2016/141)

On 19 August 2016, the secretariat of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) received the above communication addressed to the Compliance Committee of the Convention. The communication concerns compliance by Ireland with the provisions of the Convention in connection with its alleged failure to provide for a clear, transparent and consistent framework for access to information and access to justice to review decisions to refuse access to information. 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/2016/141, which you are invited to cite in future correspondence on the matter. The main documentation relating to the communication is available on the Committee's web site at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/pubcom.html>.

The Compliance Committee, having considered the admissibility of the communication at its forty-fourth meeting (27-30 September 2016), 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.

Having regard to paragraph 23 of the annex to decision I/7, you are kindly invited to submit to the Committee, as soon as possible but at the latest within five months of the date of this letter (i.e. by **6 May 2017**), any written explanations or statements clarifying the matter referred to in the communication and describing any response that may have been made in the meantime.

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

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Marshall
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Mr. Fred Logue, FP Logue Solicitors, representative of the communicant

Enc: Preliminary determination on admissibility