

Dear Ms Smagadi & Ms Dela Cruz,

I refer to your message of 15 July 2013 whereby you invited us to submit information on progress by the European Union in implementing the recommendations of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (ACCC) on communication ACCC/C/2010/54 by 16 September 2013.

The Commission has taken due note of the findings and recommendations of the ACCC concerning compliance by the European Union with provisions of the Convention in connection with the Irish National Renewable Energy Action Plan. We also take note that the ACCC will prepare its draft report, including the draft recommendations, to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session in Maastricht in June/July 2014.

As the ACCC's final findings recommend "clear instructions" for implementing Article 7 of the Aarhus Convention, the Commission is preparing letters addressed to all EU Member States, informing them of the findings and reminding them to respect the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on public participation should the need to submit an amended National Renewable Energy Action Plan arise^[1]. We will keep you informed on these letters, once they have been transmitted to the EU Member States.

[1] Article 4 (4) of Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, OJ L 140, 5.6.2009

Regards,
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