

**To Whom It May Concern**

[Ministry of Justice of ...]  
[Ministry of Environment of ...]

2012-...-...








Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing you on behalf of Justice and Environment (J&E), European Network of Environmental Law Organizations.

J&E works in Europe and consists of NGOs from twelve different countries dealing with environmental law solely or as one of their activities. J&E aims for a better legislation and implementation of environmental law on the national and European Union (EU) level to protect the environment, people and nature.

J&E has always paid particular attention to the development of access rights (access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice) in environmental matters. We would like to contribute to the adoption of an EU directive on access to environmental justice. In 2012, we asked our legal experts from seven countries (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain) to evaluate the impacts of such a directive on their respective national legal systems.

We found that the adoption of an access to justice directive by the EU would enhance access to environmental justice in the Member States, and with only a few exceptions (e.g. the criteria of qualified entities) would bring progress into the domestic legal systems. The following matrix for visualizes the potential improvements/drawbacks<sup>1</sup>.

Countries	Austria	Croatia	Czech Rep.	Hungary	Romania	Slovakia	Spain
Issues							
Definition of "environmental law"	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Yellow
Notion of "qualified entity"	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Definition of "prohibitive cost"	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Grey
Reference to interim relief	Green	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow

J&E believes in agreement with many other stakeholders in the area of access rights implementation that the adoption of the new directive would be a reasonable, desired and progressive move from the EU and thus

- › we ask the Ministry of ... and the Ministry of ... of ... [country] to vote in favor of the access to environmental justice directive in the Council of the European Union.

All relevant supporting data are in the analytical paper and position paper we attached to this letter. Should you have any question please do not hesitate to contact us at the below email address. We thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely Yours,

... [name]  
... [country]  
J&E

<sup>1</sup> Green is progress, yellow is no significant change, red is regress, grey is no data.