



## **Civil society kept out of the loop on EU energy matters**

**[Brussels, December 10<sup>th</sup> 2013]** – Today, Justice & Environment (J&E) released its appeal to the European Commission against the approval of its energy-related Projects of Common Interest (PCIs). The green NGO denounced the fact that public organisations could not voice their opinions in the preparatory process of the list.

PCIs aim to ensure a more connected energy infrastructure in the European Union by improving the better distribution and the access of energy sources to the grids. The 248 PCIs include cross-border pipelines, overhead cables, stationary facilities to transfer oil, gas, electricity, etc.

J&E condemned a lack of proper public participation in the preparatory process of the Regulation<sup>1</sup>. Indeed, therefore, J&E lodged a ‘Request for Internal Review’ against the Regulation, calling for the decision-making process to comply with the Aarhus Convention and the respective EU law on public participation.

Thomas Alge, Chairman of J&E, said:

“It is unacceptable to ignore civil society representatives when it comes to selecting energy projects. The law clearly entitles us to voice our opinions. There’s a democratic gap here.”

He added: “Should our request remain unheard, we are willing to defend the public’s right to participate before the European Court of Justice.”

### **Notes to editors:**

1. The European Commission adopted its Delegated Regulation (EU) amending Regulation 347/2013/EU on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and thereby endorsed the list of energy-related PCIs.

The Request for Internal Review is available here:

[http://www.justiceandenvironment.org/files/file/2013/PCI%20request%20for%20internal%20review%202013 J&E final.pdf](http://www.justiceandenvironment.org/files/file/2013/PCI%20request%20for%20internal%20review%202013%20J&E%20final.pdf)

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