



Green law group takes EU Commission to court

[Brussels, April 9, 2014] – Justice & Environment today filed a lawsuit against the European Commission for not properly involving civil society in the selection process of fast-track energy transfer projects¹ in the EU.

Last December 2013, J&E appealed the Commission’s decision to list those energy projects, ranging from pipelines to electricity power lines, criticising that there was no proper consultation with relevant public stakeholders in the elaboration of the list. The law group now calls on the General Court of the EU after the Commission dismissed the appeal, confirming that the list and the projects included are final.

Thomas Alge, Chairman of J&E, reacted:

“Selecting crucial energy projects without letting public organisations voice their views is unfair. This is why we have decided to step up our action by going to the EU court.

J&E generally endorses the EU’s striving towards the interconnection of networks within Europe in order to provide for alternative supply and to develop renewable energy sources. Nonetheless, potential priority energy infrastructure projects need to be closely examined. The designation process must involve a broad range of stakeholders – including environmental NGOs – to ensure a decision-making process of the highest quality.

This is why the past decision-making practice is unacceptable to us, continued Alge.

We hope the Commission will listen to our call and eventually give opportunities to green groups to participate properly when it comes in the future to decide on key energy projects.”

Notes to editors:

1. These “Projects of Common Interest” aim to better connect energy infrastructures in the EU by improving distribution and access of energy sources. The 248 projects include, power lines, facilities to transfer oil, gas, electricity, etc. [More info](#)

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