



European Network
of Environmental Law Organizations

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For Immediate Release

**Austria Non-Compliant with the Aarhus Convention
Austria**

Justice & Environment (J&E), an association of public interest environmental law organizations welcomes the preliminary findings of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (ACCC) regarding non-compliance of Austria.

The Austrian member organization of J&E, Ökobüro has submitted a communication to the ACCC in November 2010 against Austria. The preliminary findings of the ACCC were released in November 2011.

The findings blame Austria for not being in compliance with the Aarhus Convention for introducing barriers into access to justice regarding freedom of information, and for not providing legal standing to environmental NGOs against decisions of public authorities or private persons in environmental matters.

Thomas Alge, the Chairman of J&E and lawyer of Ökobüro added:

“We believe that the preliminary findings of the Committee [ACCC] will stay and this will motivate Austria for opening up access to justice for environmental NGOs. If this happens, this will reinforce the trust in the compliance mechanism of the Aarhus Convention as well.”

For further information please contact

dr. Csaba Kiss, Coordinator of J&E

info@justiceandenvironment.org

www.justiceandenvironment.org

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