The European Environmental Bureau, a network of more than 180 environmental citizens' organisations, requests your proposal for legal consultants on Aarhus Convention communications.

The European Environmental Bureau is the largest and most inclusive European network of environmental citizens’ groups – and the only one that works on such a broad range of issues. We advocate for progressive policies to create a better environment in the European Union and beyond.

The EEB is coordinating a European Commission LIFE project consortium (Project 101148074_LIFE23-GIE-BE-BE LIFE) on environmental rights and enforcement of European Environmental law.

For more information about the EEB and our activities please consult our 2022 Annual Report available on our website: https://eeb.org/library/eeb-annual-report-2022/

Objectives and scope of the subcontracts

The EEB hereby launches a subcontracting call for the duration of 15 August 2024 until 31 May 2027 to support the implementation of the ongoing LIFE project. The maximum available budget is 22,500,00 EUR (excluding VAT), covering approximately 25 working days at a daily rate of 900 EUR.

The assignment will comprise the support on two specific tasks of the project (tasks 4.2, and 4.4 see in annex 1 to this call).

In addition, the subcontractor might be required to join and contribute to project consortium calls as well as strategic project considerations.

Required experience:

- At least 15 years of experience with Aarhus Convention topics
- Previous experience with the Aarhus Convention civil society compliance support network which operated from 2007 – 2016
- Proven experience in civil society organizations
- Proven experience of engagement with Aarhus Convention configurations and meetings, especially hearings and open sessions of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee
All proposals must include:

i. CV

ii. An explanation on how the required experience is met

iii. Estimation of working days and daily rate

**Date of publication of tender:** 12 July 2024

**Deadline:** 31 July 2024

Please submit tenders in English to the following email address: tenders@eeb.org with frederik.hafen@eeb.org in CC

The contract will be awarded based on highest qualifications available under the stipulated rate.

We look forward to receiving your proposal.
Annex 1:

T.4.1 Coordinate a select group of Aarhus Convention compliance experts from within the Aarhus ECO Forum “Compliance Network”:

The project consortium will identify a group of five to ten civil society experts who are available to support others on matters pertaining to the Aarhus Convention. This group will constitute the “Compliance Network”. Some of its experts may be drawn from the project consortium whereas others may be drawn from the Aarhus ECO Forum or other civil society contacts. Selected experts (Summer Kern, Dr Andriy Andrusevych, Yves Lador) of a similar network which was active from 2007 - 2016 will be contacted and invited to join this project’s Compliance Network. One of them is already part of the project consortium with a contractual relationship with Justice and Environment. The Compliance Network will create a memorandum of understanding for its operation and its supporting methodology to complainants.

The project consortium will coordinate the day to day work of the Compliance Network and the linking between support recipients and support providers. Regular coordination meetings with the Compliance Network will be held at least twice a year. An email list will be set up as well as a functional inbox hosted by the EEB to which the Compliance Network experts will have access to.

Whereas the experts network which was active in the past was solely focussed on communications to the ACCC, the Compliance Network of this project may be expanded to also include support for those seeking help from the RRM where appropriate.

T.4.3 Compliance Network assistance:

The Compliance Network will provide advice, assistance, and possible representation in front of ACCC hearings for 1) users of the complaints portal where relevant 2) communicants and potential communicants to the ACCC and the RRM 3) young environmental defenders identified via the workshops and surveys. The Network will provide individualised ad hoc advice but not qualified legal advice. It is expected that the work of the Compliance Network will take up a total of at least 8-15 person-months. The coverage of the workload will be heavily dependent upon which specific expertise and experience will be required for which individual case. This means that the Network’s experts will be subject to a necessary level of flexibility. Given the necessary flexibility of the work, it will be financed through the consortium budget directly, through sub-contracting via the consortium budget, as well as through the separate budget of the organisations that the experts are employed by, or through volunteered time by the experts themselves, depending on the specific needs of each particular case. All coordination work of the network will be covered by the project but the network coordination may exceptionally try to call upon experts only partially covered by the project, subcontracted by the project, or not at all covered by the project where a particular expertise in law or experience in a matter of the Aarhus Convention is required and available. Financial resources outside of the project budget may be grants by foundations (e.g. the European Climate Foundation or the Environmental Defense Fund) or by governments (e.g. the Belgian government’s grants in support of environmental defenders, the Swiss government’s grants to Geneva based CSOs). Volunteer support not covered by the project’s budget may come from experts forming part of the Guta network which spans many volunteers or members of the Justice and Environment and EEB networks which are retired, are not employed at 100% full-time equivalent, or take on additional volunteer tasks in their professional capacity as pro bono consultants. In the medium term beyond the project duration, the consultancy services provided by the Compliance Network are foreseen to be financed at least by the same foundations and governments that will support their work during the project. The intention is for the work and results of the Network during the project to demonstrate to those funders and others the important added value and necessity to at least maintain the services it provides.