

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.3.2026)

The Commission would point out that the Omnibus package, currently under examination of both co-legislators, does not intend to lower environmental standards. Its aim is to simplify environmental legislation in the areas of industrial emissions, circular economy, environmental assessments and geospatial data without undermining the existing environmental standards and policy objectives. The proposed changes are expected to contribute to reducing the administrative burden for businesses, while keeping the EU's ambitious objectives to protect the environment and human health.

The Commission believes that the Aarhus Convention remains a milestone for environmental good governance in the Union and beyond. The proposal, therefore, preserves the Aarhus principles, as Article 13 of the proposal for a Regulation on speeding-up environmental assessments¹ underlines.

In line with these principles, the Critical Raw Materials Act² also preserves the applicability of the Aarhus Convention, as confirmed by its Article 14.

¹ COM(2025) 984 final.

² Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020, OJ L, 2024/1252, 3.5.2024.