



MINISTERIO  
DE MEDIO AMBIENTE  
Y MEDIO RURAL Y MARINO

SUBSECRETARÍA

SECRETARÍA GENERAL TÉCNICA

SG. INFORMACIÓN AL CIUDADANO,  
DOCUMENTACIÓN Y PUBLICACIONES

**Ella Behlyarova (Ms)**

Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in  
Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters  
(Aarhus Convention)

Environment, Housing and Land Management Division

Economic Commission for Europe

Palais des Nations

8-14 avenue de la Paix

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Switzerland.-

Distinguished Madam,

As member of the Spanish Delegation taking part in the next Meeting of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention (MOP4) and as National Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention in Spain, I am pleased to provide you with further information regarding the progress made by Spain in the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Compliance Committee in Communications ACCC/C/2008/24 and ACCC/C/2009/36.

1. - As you can see from the attached reports by Mr. Ángel Manuel Moreno Molina, General Director of the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP), Mr. José Sáenz González, General Deputy Director of Human Resources of the Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM) and Mr. Juan Carlos Dueñas Cardiel, Director of the National Centre of Environmental Education (CENEAM), an extensive training program relating to Aarhus Convention issues has been developed recently.

The INAP, in close collaboration with this Ministry, has developed an ambitious training program on the diffusion and knowledge of the Aarhus Convention and other European and national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters among the three administration levels in Spain (national, regional and local). These activities consisted in a total of 50,5 hours of classes for 124 students, including civil servants of the three administrations, judges and prosecutors. (see ANNEX I)

The General Sub-Directorate of Human Resources of the MARM has also undertaken important training activities during 2010 and 2011 on similar topics, aimed at civil servants and hired personnel of the Ministry. (see ANNEX II)

Additionally, the CENEAM (an education centre attached to the MARM) has organized a number of seminars and working groups on environmental communication and public participation issues, aimed at environmental professionals. (see ANNEX III)

2. - An important redesign of the Aarhus section of the Ministry's Website has been made, giving more prominence and visibility to the Aarhus-related issues. The new section can be checked here:

<http://www.marm.es/es/ministerio/servicios-generales/servicios-de-informacion-y-participacion/informacion-ambiental/>

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3. – A number of coordination meetings were arranged by the NFP to spread the Aarhus approaches, the information received from the Secretariat and the recommendations of the Compliance Committee among local and regional administrations (represented by the Regional Focal Points and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces). As reflected in the National Implementation Report, the different administrations of the State are making special efforts in their respective fields of competences, to observe the Aarhus provisions in both the spirit and the letter.

More specifically, with respect to Communication ACCC/C/2009/36 which involves, among others, the Autonomous Community of Extremadura, I am pleased to inform that the General Directorate of Environmental Quality and Assessment of the Government of Extremadura has recently passed an internal resolution on practical implementation of Law 27/2006 regarding access to information within its territory. They have also recently launched a new website for Aarhus-related issues [http://www.extremambiente.es/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=558&Itemid=378](http://www.extremambiente.es/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=558&Itemid=378)

4. - Lastly, I'm pleased to inform that "The 2010 Environmental Profile of Spain", report based on indicators, has been recently published and it's publicly available in Spanish and soon in English at the following address:

<http://www.marm.es/es/calidad-y-evaluacion-ambiental/temas/informacion-ambiental-indicadores-ambientales/indicadores-ambientales-perfil-ambiental-de-espana/default.aspx>.

In its preamble, the Minister for Environment and Rural and Marine affairs reaffirms the Ministry's commitment to environmental information and stresses that the publication of "The 2010 Environmental Profile of Spain" responds to many of the commitments acquired by Spain in the ratification of the Convention.

If you may consider it appropriate, please hand on this letter and its annexed reports to the Compliance Committee. They reflect the commitment of the government of Spain in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

Yours sincerely,

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