

Kazakhstan thanks the Committee for its willingness to help implement paragraphs 2 and 5 of decision VI / 8g. Kazakhstan is conducting systematic work to fulfill its obligations to implement the Aarhus Convention.

However, we believe some comments are not substantiated.

1. Kazakhstan is always committed to participating in open meetings of the Committee or participates in audio conferences.

2. To the Committee's remark about not informing the Committee about amendments to the Rules, we inform you that at the Meeting of the Parties in Budva, the Kazakhstan side announced the exclusion from the Rules of public hearings from paragraphs 19 and 27 of the content of the reference to "reasonable comments and suggestions", and upon decision VI / 8g was not taken into account by the secretariat.

3. To implement paragraphs 2 and 5 of decision VI / 8g, it is planned to take into account all recommendations within the framework of the draft new Environmental Code. At the same time, I would like to inform that many of the Committee's comments in the framework of the draft Code are planned to be taken into account in the by-laws for the draft Code. However, due to the fact that the Draft Environmental Code is pending and not yet adopted, the Committee's comments are premature.

At the same time, Kazakhstan has already begun work on introducing amendments to the Rules of public hearings.

4. According to the Committee's remarks regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Instruction, it should be noted that SEA is a new tool introduced by Kazakhstan in the draft Environmental Code and the Instruction on the organization and conduct of SEA will be submitted to the Committee after these rules come into force.

I also note that as part of the SEA Pilot Project in Kazakhstan, your colleagues have already developed a draft of this Instruction.

We will make every effort to fulfill our obligations to implement the Aarhus Convention and submit a report on time.

Thank you.