

**QUESTIONNAIRE TO ASSESS IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
ON ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS (DECISION II/3)**

Please fill in and return this questionnaire to the Aarhus Convention secretariat by
20 November 2006

Secretariat: Fax: +41 22 917 0634, E-mail: michael.stanley-jones@unece.org

Submitted by:	_____ Viktor Ivanovsky _____
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1. In your country, which categories of environmental information (according to para 9 (c) of the *Recommendations* annexed to decision II/3) are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Reports on the state of the environment are:

- i. Generally available **+** Partly available ____ Not available ____
- ii. Please provide internet link _____ http://www.ac.minpriroda.by/50_28.htm _____
- iii. Are reports on the state of the environment legally required to be available?
Yes **+** No ____
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information?
Yes No ____
- v. Comments

b) Texts of legislation, regulations, rules and other legally binding instruments on or relating to the environment are:

- i. Generally available **+** Partly available ____ Not available ____
- ii. Please provide internet link minpriroda.by/legislation/General.htm, pravo.by
- iii. Are texts of legislation, regulations, rules and other legally binding instruments on or relating to the environment legally required to be available? Yes **+** No ____
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information?
Yes No ____
- v. Comments

c) Texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements are:

- i. Generally available ____ Partly available **+** Not available ____
- ii. Please provide internet link <http://minpriroda.by/legislation/General.htm> _____

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- iii. Are texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment legally required to be available? Yes + No ___
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information? Yes No ___
- v. Comments
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d) Environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation, where it is held in electronic form, is:

- i. Generally available ___ Partly available + Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link ___ <http://minpriroda.by/legislation/General.htm> ___
- iii. Are environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation legally required to be available? Yes + No ___
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes No ___
- v. Comments
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e) Reference to where environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation can be accessed is:

- i. Generally available ___ Partly available + Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link [minpriroda.by/legislation/ General.htm](http://minpriroda.by/legislation/General.htm), www.ac.minpriroda.by/50.htm

f) Data on environmentally significant releases and transfers of pollutants, within the scope of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), are:

- i. Generally available ___ Partly available ___ Not available +
- ii. Please provide internet link _____
- iii. Are PRTR data legally required to be available? Yes ___ No +
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes + No ___
- v. Comments
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g) Information on mechanisms related to access to justice within the meaning of the Convention is:

- i. Generally available ___ Partly available + Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link ___ http://minpriroda.by/actual/actual_Pravo.htm ___
- iii. Is information on mechanisms related to access to justice legally required to be available? Yes + No ___
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes No ___

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v. Comments

2. In your country, among documentation forming an integral part of any licensing or permitting process subject to the provisions of article 6, and where held in electronic form, which categories of environmental information are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Applications for licences or permits are:

i. Generally available ___ Partly available ___ Not available +

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Are applications for licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes + No ___

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes + No ___

v. Comments

b) Draft licences or permits and their attached conditions are:

i. Generally available ___ Partly available ___ Not available +

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Are draft licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ___ No +

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes + No ___

v. Comments

c) Final licences or permits and their attached conditions are:

i. Generally available ___ Partly available ___ Not available +

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Are final licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ___ No +

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements for progressive improvements for this information? Yes + No ___

v. Comments

d) Comments of third parties on draft permits and conditions are:

i. Generally available ___ Partly available ___ Not available +

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Are comments of third parties legally required to be available? Yes ___ No +

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iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements for progressive improvements for this information? Yes **+**__ No

v. Comments

e) Where it is not available in electronic form, a reference to where documentation forming an integral part of any licensing or permitting process subject to the provisions of article 6 can be accessed is:

i. Generally available __ Partly available Not available **+**

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Is such a reference legally required to be available? Yes**+** No__

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes **+** No __

v. Comments

3. In your country, which categories of environmental information (according to the paragraph 9 (d) of the *Recommendations* annexed to decision II/3) are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Environmental monitoring data held by or on behalf of public authorities, including spatial attributes are:

i. Generally available **+**__ Partly available __ Not available __

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable __ <http://ecoinfoby.net> _____

iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes**+** No__

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes __ No __

v. Comments

b) Product information that enables consumers to make informed environmental choices is:

i. Generally available __ Partly available __ Not available **+**

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____

iii. Are such data legally required to be available? Yes**+** No__

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes **+** No __

v. Comments

c) Good practice information and guidelines on better environmental management are:

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- i. Generally available ___ Partly available + Not available ___
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable ___<http://www.ac.minpriroda.by/45.htm>___
- iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes___ No +
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes + No ___
- v. Comments
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d) Appropriate metadata or background information so that the methods, processes and standards of data collection are transparent to future data users is:

- i. Generally available ___ Partly available ___ Not available +
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable _____
- iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes___ No +
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes + No ___
- v. Comments
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e) Meta-information including catalogues of data sources and details of the scope of information held by public authorities and mechanisms for the provision of access to environmental information is:

- i. Generally available + Partly available ___ Not available
- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable
http://minpriroda.by/ref_doc_mat/InventoryTable.htm___
- iii. Is such meta-information legally required to be available? Yes + No
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes No ___
- v. Comments
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4. In your country, what proportion of members of the public has electronic access:

a) In their place of residence?

More than 80% ___ 60-79% ___ 40-59% ___ 20-39% + Less than 20% ___

b) In their place of work (employment, school etc.)?

More than 80% ___ 60-79% ___ 40-59% + 20-39% ___ Less than 20% ___

c) In a publicly accessible facility (internet café, public library, kiosk etc)?

More than 80% ___ 60-79% ___ 40-59% ___ 20-39% + Less than 20% ___

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5. In your country, has the scope of environmental information that is electronically accessible since 2005:

Generally increased + Partly increased Remained the same ___ Declined ___

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6. For the majority of Internet users in your country, what is the most common form of Internet access:

Dial-up (telephony) + Wi-Fi (wireless networking) ____ Broadband ____ Don't know: ____

Broadband is a term that encompasses DSL, cable and satellite high-speed Internet connections. DSL stands for "Digital Subscriber Line". Variants include ADSL, HDSL, IDSL, VDSL and SDSL.

7. Please describe any methods or measures that are used to gauge the level of actual use of environmental information accessed electronically in your country (for example, tracking of web traffic statistics on official environmental information sites):

____ web traffic statistics _____

8. Please identify in the table below the
- a) main users of environmental information in your country, and
 - b) methods used to assess their information needs.

You may choose one or more categories.

a) Main User	b) Methods
Government	Official publications Internet TV Newspapers
Academia / Schools	Books Official publications Internet TV Newspapers
General Public	TV Internet Newspapers Radio
Nongovernmental Organizations	Internet Official publications

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	TV
Private sector	TV Internet Newspapers Radio
Others (Please identify)	

9. If your Ministry or agency has assessed user needs for environmental information, please briefly describe how successful it has been.

10. In your country, how is progress on improving electronic access to environmental information being communicated to the public?

Yes

11. What concrete steps have been undertaken to ensure that information is available electronically? Please include reference to national web portals or other sites of interest.

<http://minpriroda.by>, <http://ac.minpriroda.by>, <http://ecoinfoby.net> <http://pravo.by>

12. Is public access to environmental information through the Internet or other electronic means provided as a matter of practice or is there a legally enforceable right to such access? If possible, please include reference to relevant national policies or provisions of national law referring to this right.

13. Has your country formulated and implemented national "e-government" strategies for the use of electronic tools to facilitate administrative processes and services, to make public administration more transparent and efficient in providing available environmental information and dealing with requests for such information from the public? Please include relevant title(s), name(s), contact information of responsible officer(s) and timeframe for implementation.

Yes, National program «Electronic Belarus» http://www.mpt.gov.by/

14. In which types of environmental decision-making process (in the sense of articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention) may public participation take place electronically? What are the main steps in the process? If possible, please give concrete examples.

15. Have comprehensive environment-related programmes, including specific training programmes linking the use of information technology applications to the promotion of good environmental governance, been developed and implemented in your country?

a) Yes No +

b) Is the training programme:

i. Ongoing Periodic One-time

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- ii. Financed through international assistance ____
 State-financed (National or local government) ____
 Privately-financed (philanthropy, NGO, private sector) ____
 Other (please describe) ____

- c) Please provide the date(s) of initiation and target audience of environment-related training programmes:

16. Please describe any measures taken to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing both providers and users of information, including civil society and private sector institutions, in the development and use of electronic tools to provide environmental information to the public?

17. What are the most important challenges and obstacles in your country to the use of electronic tools to implement the *Recommendations* contained in decision II/3?

You can use the enclosed list of possible challenges on page 10 as reference.

18. Does your country have an Aarhus Clearinghouse National Node web portal? If yes, please identify the website address (url): http://www.ac.minpriroda.by

19. Does your country have a designated Aarhus Clearinghouse National Node Administrator or contact point responsible for collecting, managing and updating the information contained in the national node? Yes ____ No ____

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20. Date of launch of national node of the Clearinghouse: (Month/Year) 04.2004

21. How often does your national node administration update the National Clearinghouse web portal? Monthly + Quarterly ____ Annually ____ Never ____

22. Approximately how many resource entries in the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy (<http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org>) reflect national content?

More than 10 ____ 5 to 10 + Less than 5 ____ None ____

23. What method of communicating resource entries to the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy does your organization or agency prefer to use? Does it submit information:

By email to aarhus.clearinghouse@unece.org ____
By email to staff of the Aarhus secretariat ____
By email to national experts serving on Task Force ____

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By email to Clearinghouse National Node Administrator ____

Using Clearinghouse's online form accessible to registered content managers _+

Other (please specify) _____

24. Please describe any measures undertaken to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing both providers and users of information, including civil society and private sector institutions, in the national node of the Clearinghouse.

_no _____

25. Please provide any additional comments below.

no _____

Thank you for completing this questionnaire!

Aarhus Convention Secretariat

Information Tools	Relevant provisions of the Aarhus Convention	Challenges & obstacles to ICT Implementation
<p>ELECTRONIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet • E-mail • Electronic Community Notice Boards/ Billboards • CD-Rom • Electronic data accessible through bar-code scanning • Electronic data accessible through touch-tone dialling • SMS – Short Messaging System • Public electronic information kiosks • Telephone Hotlines/Fax TV Teletext • Other (to be specified) <p>NON-ELECTRONIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochures • Exhibitions • Green community reps • Info-shops (walk in) • Libraries • Newspapers • Open days • Posters • TV, Cinema, Radio • Other (to be specified) 	<p>ARTICLE 4, PARA. 1</p> <p>Response to requests for environmental information in the form requested</p> <p>ARTICLE 5, PARA. 3</p> <p>a) Reports on the state of the environment b) Texts of legislation on or relating to the environment c) Policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements d) Other information, to the extent that the availability of such information in this form would facilitate the application of national law implementing the Convention.</p> <p>ARTICLE 6</p> <p>Public participation in decisions on specific activities which may have a significant effect on the environment</p> <p>ARTICLE 7</p> <p>Public participation concerning plans, programmes and policies relating to the environment</p> <p>ARTICLE 8</p> <p>Public participation during the preparation of executive regulations and/or generally applicable legally binding normative instruments</p>	<p>INSTITUTIONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited scope or extent of environmental data collected in your country • Limited standardization of data sets • Poor cooperation with other agencies collecting environmental data • Limited interest in utilizing ICT among: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Data providers (you) -Data users (pls. Quantify) • Other priorities (pls. Detail) • Lack of time to explore/implement <p>ECONOMIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited market availability of equipment • Lack of IT service providers • Lack of technical support • High cost of online access • High cost of equipment • Poor state of telecommunication networks <p>CULTURAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited expertise/know-how <p>LEGAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear rules, legislation on environment and informational responsibility <p>OTHER (to be specified)</p>