

Aarhus Convention needs a mechanism to deal with issues of environmental activists persecution

Recently, we have seen cases of persecution and pressure on environmental activists. Without existing mechanisms for proper immediate protection, it is impossible to implement environmental rights guaranteed by the Convention effectively and without fear.

The issue of compliance with article 8, paragraph 3 of the Convention, cases of persecution, pressure on environmental activists exercising their rights under the Convention, was raised at the 6th Meeting of the Parties in Budva.

To our opinion, today the existing procedures are insufficient and do not provide immediate protection in cases of activists persecution. Cases of persecution and pressure on activists require prompt actions. The consideration of communications for several years may have irreversible consequences, and therefore do not provide adequate protection for activists.

We believe that effective and time-sensitive procedures of responding in such cases are crucial.

The issue was also raised in the Maastricht Declaration so the problem is not a recent problem, but rather a long term one that the declarations have not led to a resolution, that is why a new mechanism is needed.

I appeal to all the parties to use the intersessional period to work out and discuss this issue, starting now.

Thank you.

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