



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Statement by Mr Mladen Rudez, National Focal Point
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

17th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, Geneva, 26-28 February 2014

Distinguished Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to update you on the most recent developments regarding the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Second National Implementation Report on Aarhus Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina has finished and put on web site of Convention Secretariat in december last year,
- The report was prepared with technical and administrative assistance of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, through a project funded by the government of Germany,
- In consultation with the National Focal Point and key ministries in Bosnia and Herzegovina (at State, Entity and Brcko District level), it was agreed to form a working group that will coordinate the preparation of the report,
- The Aarhus Centers Network (3 centers) was included in the working group from the start. The network developed a detailed questionnaire for NGOs and sent it 156 NGOs across the country. 24 of them replied with information relevant to the report,
- The overall process of report's preparation lasted from July through December, including the consultations process,
- Overall, 31 institutions at different government levels and 24 NGOs participated in the report's preparation. The report's draft was also shared for comments with ENVSEC partners: UNEP, REC and UNDP offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- The report was translated into English and published in official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as English, in December last year,
- Reporting guidelines of the Aarhus Convention Secretariat were used, including the new reporting format,
- Highlights of the report: Bosnia and Herzegovina noted some progress in the implementation of the Convention. The access to justice pillar remains the weakest link - however, in the report's preparation, we began collecting statistics and decisions in judicial review cases to have a better idea into the jurisprudence now developing in Bosnia and Herzegovina; there is some improvement in the public participation process - it is important that we have a national network of Aarhus Centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina to assist in the implementation of the Convention and help with raising public awareness about their rights and responsibilities.

Thank you for your attention!