

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the floor. We would like to also thank the convention and experts for the comprehensive report and decisions.

Since 2012, the Bulgarian government has not taken a single step towards fulfilling the monitored violations of the Convention in this case. On the contrary, numerous amendments to the Spatial Planning Act were adopted, all of them providing new restrictions of the access to court and access to information; What is more, the Constitutional Court recently has adopted one very restrictive decision to further limit the circle of persons with standing (*locus standi*) to appeal territorial and spatial plans. There are dozens of decisions of the administrative courts refusing to accept existence of standing (*locus standi*) for appeal of territorial and spatial plans on environmental grounds. Since the previous discussion and decision of the Convention, the government has not taken a single step for improving the situation.

Taking this into account and the fact that the Aarhus Convention is a part of European *acquis communautaire*, we make a request for the convention to refer the case to the European Commission, without dismissing the further actions under the Aarhus Convention itself."