

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

*Item 3 of the Agenda
Preparatory segment*

Timing: Monday, 18 October, 10.20 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.

STATEMENT OF LITHUANIA

Regarding Draft decision VII/81 concerning compliance by Lithuania with its obligations under the Convention

1. Lithuania would like to express its gratitude to the Compliance Committee and the Bureau for the work done.
2. a) We would like to reassure the Parties to the Convention about Lithuania's strong determination to respect the principles of the Aarhus Convention.

b) Being a part of the Aarhus community, Lithuania seeks to promote environmental democracy and protect the essential right of individuals to live in the clean and healthy environment.

c) We fully support the public initiatives and willingness to participate in decision-making in environmental matters.
3. a) Therefore, we would like to confirm that Lithuania takes all necessary legislative and regulatory measures in order to implement recommendations provided in the draft Decision concerning compliance by Lithuania and to be fully in line with the Aarhus Convention.

b) Lithuania has already amended its legislation and continues this process by reviewing the Law on Environmental Protection Act and the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment to ensure implementation of all the recommendations in the decision.

c) Lithuanian authorities have taken administrative measures to inform the EIA document preparer and the developer (the organiser) of the economic activity and the public of timeframes for public participation, including the time limits within which the relevant documentation will be available and comments can be submitted. Administrative measures were also taken by providing an advisory notice to the national security services with a request to refrain from certain actions.

d) These amendments of legislation and administrative measures will ensure the principles of transparency, openness and inclusiveness in environmental decision-making and will contribute to a better execution of public participation in decision-making or to seek access to justice under the Aarhus Convention.

4. Lithuania confirms its readiness to fulfill its obligations and will keep on working towards its effective implementation of the Aarhus Convention.