

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Seventh session

Geneva, 18–20 October 2021

Excerpt from the addendum to the report of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1)*

Decision VII/8a concerning compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention

Adopted by the Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its seventh session

The Meeting of the Parties,

Acting under paragraph 37 of the annex to its decision I/7 on the review of compliance,¹

Mindful of the conclusions and recommendations set out in its decision VI/8a with regard to compliance by Armenia,²

Taking note of the report of the Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters on the implementation of decision VI/8a concerning compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention,³

Encouraged by the willingness of Armenia to discuss in a constructive manner with the Committee the compliance issues in question,

1. *Endorses* the findings of the Committee that the Party concerned has not yet fulfilled the requirements of paragraph 3 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of decision VI/8a;

2. *Reaffirms* decision VI/8a, and requests the Party concerned, as a matter of urgency, to take the necessary legislative, regulatory and administrative measures to ensure that:

(a) Thresholds for activities subject to an environmental impact assessment procedure, including public participation, are set in a clear manner;

(b) Reasonable time frames that are significantly longer than those currently provided for are set for the public to consult and comment on project-related documentation;

* The full text of addendum to the report of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1) will, in due course, be available in English, French and Russian from https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/Aarhus_Convention_MoP7.

¹ ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.8.

² ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1.

³ ECE/MP.PP/2021/46.

(c) Its legislation, including the law on non-governmental organizations and administrative procedures, complies with article 9 (2) of the Convention with regard to standing;

(d) It continues its efforts to raise awareness of the judiciary to promote implementation of domestic legislation in accordance with the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all relevant ministries of the Party concerned, including the Ministry of Justice, to work together to ensure the successful fulfilment of the above recommendations, in particular those contained in subparagraph (c);

4. *Requests* the Party concerned to:

(a) Submit a plan of action, including a time schedule, to the Committee by 1 July 2022 regarding the implementation of the recommendations in paragraph 2 (a), (b), (c) and (d) above;

(b) Provide detailed progress reports to the Committee by 1 October 2023 and 1 October 2024 on the measures taken and the results achieved in the implementation of the plan of action and the above recommendations;

(c) Provide such further information as the Committee may request in order to assist it to review the progress by the Party concerned in implementing the above recommendations;

(d) Participate (either in person or by virtual means) in the meetings of the Committee at which the progress of the Party concerned in implementing the above recommendations is to be considered;

5. *Decides* to issue a caution to the Party concerned, to become effective on 1 January 2024, unless the Party concerned has fully satisfied the conditions set out in paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c) above and has notified the secretariat of this fact by 1 October 2023;

6. *Requests* the Committee to establish the successful fulfilment of paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c) above for the purposes of paragraph 5 above;

7. *Undertakes* to review the situation at its eighth session.
