

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, including High-Level Segment

Geneva, 18–21 October 2021

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

....

56. In an effort to reach consensus, the Meeting of the Parties agreed that the discussion on the decision on compliance by the European Union with regard to the Committee's findings and recommendation on communication ACCC/C/2015/128 only would be postponed until the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties. Several Parties however expressed their great concern and reluctance to deviate, as an exceptional measure for that particular case only, from the long-standing and consistent practice of adopting decisions at each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties endorsing all of the findings issued by the Compliance Committee during the intersessional period regarding noncompliance by individual Parties. A number of statements highlighted that the agreement to postpone consideration of the decision with regard to communication ACCC/C/2015/128 was exceptional and therefore would not create a precedent for any future decision-making concerning a Party's compliance.

....

58. Concluding its discussion, the Meeting of the Parties provisionally adopted draft decision VII/8f concerning compliance by the European Union, as amended at the meeting (ECE/MP.PP/2021/CRP.6/Rev.1), and agreed to include the following text in the session's report:

In a spirit of reaching consensus, the Meeting of the Parties exceptionally decided, by consensus, to postpone the decision-making on the Committee's findings and recommendations on communication ACCC/C/2015/128 (European Union)¹ to the next ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties to be held in 2025. The Meeting of the Parties stresses that this exceptional decision shall in no way establish a practice under the Convention. The Meeting of the Parties also requested the Compliance Committee to review any developments that have taken place regarding the matter and to report to the Meeting of the Parties accordingly.

59. In that context, the Party concerned stated that it reaffirmed its commitment to implement its obligations under the Convention.

....

* The full text of the report of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2) is available from https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/Aarhus_Convention_MoP7.

¹ ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2021/21.