



"Eco-TIRAS"
International
Association of River
Keepers

A.O. Asociația
Internațională
a Păstrătorilor Rîului
"Eco-TIRAS"

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**Statement of Ilya Trombitsky, Eco-Tiras, Republic of Moldova,
on behalf of the European ECO Forum (Access to information)**

Dear Chair,

My current statement is related to the situation characteristic for the access to information in the EECCA region.

The challenges dealing with the access to environmental information in this region among others are:

- Weak inter-departmental cooperation - usually the ministries and authorities other than the MoE are not well informed about their Aarhus-dealing duties and not respect the public rights;
- A strong view exists, that access of public to the information should be limited by the final data and documents and not to the primary data. In this respect - difficult access to the primary data, even historical ones;
- We also observe strong willingness to sail the information to every non-governmental body independently of the possible reason of the request (like in case of the request of the "historic" information which in any case could not be used for the "profit" purposes, but only for science or education, and in this respect - establishing of unreasonably high costs without clear explanation of the way how such costs were formed, with the feeling of the departmental "private" ownership to the information;
- There are difficulties of the environmental information exchange even between governmental bodies;
- Finally, all together such attitude and stagnation in implementation of the Art. 5 of the Aarhus Convention provoke impossibility for the governments to adopt the reasonable decisions in different spheres, based on verified and discussed information and scientific attitude.

Thank you for your attention.