

Compliance Committee to the Convention on
Access to Information, Public Participation in
Decision-making and Access to Justice in
Environmental Matters

Seventy-sixth meeting
13 - 16 September 2022

Concerning the decision of Belarus to withdraw from the Aarhus Convention

Dear Chairperson and members of the Committee,

On 18 July, 2022 a presidential decree was signed withdrawing Belarus from the Aarhus Convention. According to article 21 of the Aarhus Convention, Belarus' withdrawal will take effect on October 24, 2022.

Regarding the issue of non-compliance by Belarus with obligations under the Convention, 4 Communications were submitted by the public, namely [ACCC/C/2009/37](#), [ACCC/C/2009/44](#), [ACCC/C/2014/102](#) and [ACCC/C/2020/182](#), three of them were considered on the merits. Decisions were adopted in relation to Belarus with an assessment of violations of the provisions of the Convention and recommendations were given by the Meetings of the Parties.

Communication ACCC/C/2020/182 was submitted to the Compliance Committee on 24 May 2020 by Ecohome. The communication was deemed admissible, but has not been considered on the merits and is pending at the moment

Also Lithuania filed a submission [ACCC/S/2015/2](#) regarding the failure of Belarus to comply with provisions of the Convention in the decision-making on a nuclear power plant (NPP) in Ostrovets, Belarus. Communication was considered and findings and recommendations concerning compliance by Belarus were given.

Thus, with regard to Belarus, the submitted communication ACCC/C/2020/182¹ remains unconsidered.

And, unfortunately, Belarus has not fully and properly implemented the recommendations given to it and remains in a state of non-compliance, which is confirmed by the conclusions in Decision VII/8c concerning compliance by Belarus² with its obligations under the Convention.

Noting also the fact that all the above Communications were submitted to the Compliance Committee prior to the notification by Belarus of the decision to withdraw from the Aarhus Convention.

¹ The communication alleged Belarus a failure to comply with article 6 (2)–(4) and (9) of the Convention with respect to public participation in decision-making regarding a battery plant in Brest.

² Decision VII/8c concerning Belarus

<https://unece.org/env/pp/cc/decision-vii8c-concerning-belarus>

In this regard, we would like to make the following requests to the Compliance Committee

1. Consider the merits of Communication ACCC/C/2020/182.
2. Make a common follow-up on the assessment of whether the recommendations given to Belarus have been implemented.

We also would like to not to close Belarus cases, but to suspend them until the moment when Belarus returns to the family of the Aarhus Convention.

We are grateful to the Compliance Committee, its Chair and members, who have been considering reports on Belarus for all these years, professionally and deeply understanding the situation, formulating essential recommendations for the Belarusian State Party for the benefit of Belarusian society and the environment.

We express our gratitude for all your work.

September 09, 2022

on behalf of Ecohome
Marina Dubina