

**From:** ECE-Aarhus-Compliance <[aarhus.compliance@un.org](mailto:aarhus.compliance@un.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2022 2:00 PM

**To:** Papp Vanda [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Nagy Cintia [REDACTED]; Ella Behlyarova [REDACTED]; Zhanara Kubler

[REDACTED]; gva.missions [MFA GOV] [REDACTED]; Gálffy Kolos

[REDACTED]; Lajdi Margaréta [REDACTED]; Petres Zoltán Márk

**Subject:** RE: Decision VII/8h (Hungary) - invitation to open session at Committee's 77th meeting (13-16 December 2022)

**Importance:** High

Dear Ms. Papp,

Thank you for your very courteous email of 7 December.

The Chair of the Compliance Committee welcomes Hungary's stated commitment to giving a higher priority to environmental protection together with the circular economy and climate change policy. The Chair considers it important to clarify the following points.

As you may know, through paragraph 3 (d) of decision VII/8h, the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention has explicitly requested Hungary to "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 recommendation is to be considered".

Five months after the expiry of the deadline of 1 July 2022 set by the Meeting of the Parties in paragraph 3 (a) of decision VII/8h for Hungary to have submitted its plan of action, the Compliance Committee will review Hungary's progress in implementing paragraph 3 (a) of decision VII/8h at its seventy-seventh meeting this week in open session.

This is in accordance with the time schedule for this intersessional period set out on page 7 of the Committee's Information Note for Parties on preparing their plan of action, [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/toPartyVII.8h\\_07.02.2022\\_info\\_note.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/toPartyVII.8h_07.02.2022_info_note.pdf)

As you may see, the time schedule on page 7 of the Information Note states that, at its 77<sup>th</sup> meeting on 13-16 December 2022, the Committee will, where needed, discuss the plans of action with the Parties concerned in open session.

The Committee's Information Note was sent to Hungary on 7 February 2022. For your ease of reference, all correspondence concerning the Committee's follow-up on decision VII/8h is available [here](#).

Parties were also informed of the above time schedule during the open session at the Committee's 74<sup>th</sup> meeting on 17 March 2022, at which a representative of Hungary was present.

The participation by each Party concerned in the open session on its plan of action is seen by the Committee as a sign of the Party's good faith engagement in the Committee's follow-up procedure on the decision on its compliance adopted by the Meeting of the Parties.

I must inform you that all other Parties whose plans of action will be discussed in the open session on Wednesday, 14 December, have already confirmed their participation. Given the Committee's high caseload, it will not be possible for it to hold a separate, belated, session just on Hungary's plan of action at its 78<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Should Hungary opt not to participate in Wednesday's open session on decision VII/8h, the Committee will need to report Hungary's non-attendance to the Meeting of the Parties, since its failure to attend would be in contravention of the clear request the Meeting of the Parties has made to Hungary in paragraph 3 (d) of decision VII/8h.

The session on Hungary's outstanding plan of action should take no more than 15 minutes. The Chair accordingly encourages Hungary to reconsider its decision and to explore an opportunity to attend the open session this Wednesday.

I hope the above explanation may be of assistance. If it may be helpful, I would be glad to have a call either this afternoon or during the Committee's lunch break from 12:30-14:00 tomorrow to discuss.

With kind regards,  
Fiona



**Fiona Marshall**

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