

1 September 2023

Mr. Hristo Stoev  
Ministry of Environment and Water  
Sofia, Bulgaria

Dear Mr. Stoev,

**Re: Decision VII/8d concerning compliance by Bulgaria  
with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention**

The Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) has asked me to write to you as a courtesy to remind you that, in accordance with paragraph 7 (a) of decision VII/8d of the Meeting of the Parties, Bulgaria is requested to submit to the Committee its first progress report by **1 October 2023** on the measures it has by that date taken, and the results achieved, to implement the recommendations in paragraphs 2(a)-(b) and 6 (a)-(b) of decision VII/8d.

The Committee has also asked me to remind you that, in paragraph 4(b) of decision VII/8d, the Meeting of the Parties decided that the caution issued to the Party concerned through paragraph 4(a) of decision VII/8d will be lifted on **1 October 2023** if the Party concerned has fully met the requirements in paragraph 2 (a) (i) and (ii) of the decision and has notified the secretariat of this fact, providing evidence, by the same date.

As explained by the Chair of the Committee at the twenty-seventh meeting (Geneva, 26-28 June 2023), all the measures to implement decision VII/8d must be taken and reported on by no later than **1 October 2024** in order that they can be taken into consideration by the Committee in its report on decision VII/8d to the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

As you may recall, at its twenty-seventh meeting, the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention took note of the information provided by the Chair of the Compliance Committee and “urged all Parties subject to a decision of the Meeting of the Parties concerning its compliance to implement that decision in a timely and effective manner, especially where the implementation requires legislative measures”.<sup>1</sup>

Finally, should Bulgaria demonstrate to the Committee that it has fully met the requirements of decision VII/8d by the time of its final progress report due on 1 October 2024, the Committee will report that fact to the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties. There would then be no need for a further decision on those points to be adopted at the eighth session.

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<sup>1</sup> List of decisions and major outcomes of the meeting, p. 5,  
<https://unece.org/environment/documents/2023/07/list-decisions-and-major-outcomes-meeting>

Should you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat.

Yours sincerely,



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Fiona Marshall  
Secretary to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee

Cc: Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva  
Communicants of communications ACCC/C/2011/58, ACCC/C/2012/76 and ACCC/C/2016/144  
Observers of decision VII/8d