

## Decision IX/4f on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation

*The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention,*

*Recalling* articles 11 (2) and 14 bis of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context,

*Recalling also* its decision IX/4<sup>1</sup> on general issues of compliance with the Convention adopted at its ninth session (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023),

*Having considered* the report on the activities of the Implementation Committee to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth session, in particular, the section concerning Belarus,<sup>2</sup>

*Acknowledging* the technical assistance provided by the secretariat to the Government of Belarus for the past 10 years, with European Union funding, to bring its legislation into line with the provisions of the Convention and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment,

*Noting* that the Implementation Committee conducted informal online consultations with Belarus during its fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 4–7 October 2022) on the steps taken by Belarus to bring its environmental impact assessment legislation into compliance with the Convention,<sup>3</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the improvement by Belarus of its national legislation through the adoption of Law of the Republic of Belarus No. 296-3, of 17 July 2023, on the Amendment of the Law on State Ecological Expertise, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment, which will enter into force on 23 January 2024, but regrets that not all the deficiencies of the previous legislation were addressed;

2. *Endorses* the findings of the Implementation Committee that Belarus was in non-compliance with its obligations under article 2 (2) of the Convention for not having taken the necessary legal, administrative or other measures to implement the provisions of the Convention;<sup>4</sup>

3. *Encourages* Belarus to align its legislation with appendix I to the Convention, as amended by the second amendment, and to ratify that amendment, in order to facilitate the application of the Convention between Parties;

4. *Requests* Belarus to amend its legislation in accordance with the Committee's findings, and to adopt it to ensure full implementation of the Convention;

5. *Also requests* Belarus to report to the Implementation Committee, by the end of 2024, on the progress made.

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<sup>1</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/2023/6.

<sup>2</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/2023/13–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2023/13.

<sup>3</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2022/7, paras. 41–43.

<sup>4</sup> ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2023/8, annex I, para. 43.