



"Eco-TIRAS"
International
Association of River
Keepers

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

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on behalf of the Eco-TIRAS International Association of River Keepers (Moldova),
and the European ECO-Forum.
Agenda point 5 - PPIF. Aarhus Convention WGP-28

Dear Chair, dear Colleagues,

The article 3, paragraph 7 of the AC says, that Each Party shall promote the application of the principles of this Convention in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organizations in matters relating to the environment. Correspondingly, the Aarhus process is trying to ensure the implementation of this principle.

At the same time, it looks, that the concept of 'International forum' is more frequently applied to the processes involving many parties. Meanwhile, it covers also bilateral environmental agreements, promoted by only two corresponding governments.

Let us take bilateral relations on trans-boundary rivers as an example. Starting to lobby the Dniester River basin treaty in the end of 1990th, we tried to take the AC provisions into account when developing, adopting and implementing the Dniester Basin Treaty between Moldova and Ukraine, first of such nature in EECCA region, even in 1990th. Moreover, since NGOs played a decisive role in the appearance of this agreement, the Parties decided in 2012 that NGOs should be represented in the Dniester Commission as full members. This is written in the text of the treaty. Interested members of the public have the right to attend meetings of the Dniester Commission in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Parties. The application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention is also important because both Parties and the public need access to environmental information from each of the Parties. Public participation is also valuable due to the fact that the Parties usually should follow in their interrelations the dominated economic and political interests, when public could better protect the environmental interests of the riparian peoples, prioritizing them in negotiation process.

At the same time we observe that in many cases the public has no access to bilateral environmental agreements' negotiations and implementation process. Frequently such agreements do not have developed regulations, where the interesting persons' participation is provided. Our recommendation is to analyze the application of the AC provisions on the level of bilateral environmental agreements in the UNECE region to determine the gaps to promote the best practices, and to stimulate the progress in this field.

Thank you for your attention!