

To: the Secretary of the Aarhus Convention  
Compliance Committee Mrs. Fiona Marshall

**COMMENTS BY THE PARTY CONCERNED**

Draft report of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee on the implementation of decision IV/9a of the Meeting of the Parties concerning compliance by Armenia

*Dear Mrs. Marshall,*

In the name of the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia, I want to thank the Compliance Committee and you personally for constructive dialogue and support. Armenia as a Party to the Convention has always shown commitment for constructive dialogue and has expressed readiness to implement the recommendations of the Compliance Committee which has been illustrated in the Progress report and other information continuously provided to the Compliance Committee. We highly appreciate the atmosphere of confidence formed between the Party Concerned and the Compliance Committee.

We have thoroughly examined the Draft report of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee on the implementation of decision IV/9a of the Meeting of the Parties. We welcome the content of the draft report and the recommendations therein to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties. However, there are a couple of comments which we would like to bring to the attention of the Compliance Committee:

1. Concerning paragraph 33 (ii.), we would like to mention that the web-page of the Ministry of Nature Protection has been improved, and currently announcements about public hearings under Article 6 of the Aarhus Convention are posted on the public domain in a timely manner. Announcements are disseminated via Aarhus Centers' web-page as well. At the same time, relevant information is disseminated among the public concerned via public environmental networks. The Department of Information and Public Relations of the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia is in contact with the Public concerned to ensure effective involvement of the civil society in environmental decision-making.

2. With regard to paragraph 33 (iv.), relevant system of prompt notification of the public concerned on final conclusions of environmental expertise is arranged, particularly the final documents are available at the web-site of the Ministry of Nature Protection of RA (<http://www.mnp.am/?p=200>).



Based on the considerations above, we would kindly ask the Compliance Committee to revise the mentioned recommendations as these requirements in practice are met through the periodically updated section in the web-page of the Ministry of Nature Protection of RA. To this end, we would kindly ask the Compliance Committee to mention about the practical steps undertaken to ensure that the public concerned is notified about the decision-making procedure in a timely manner and the final decisions of state environmental expertise are made available on the web-page of the Ministry of Nature Protection.

As for the adoption of the new EIA law, the draft has been included in the agenda of the National Assembly of Armenia on 30.09.2013 but has not been discussed at the plenary session. The Standing commission on the Agricultural and Environmental issues of the National Assembly is open to accept comments and recommendations on the law draft with the view of its further amendment. Its adoption was delayed *inter alia* for political reasons, as since the autumn of 2013 a major pension reform was on the agenda. We will keep informed the Compliance Committee about relevant developments on this matter.

The Ministry of Nature Protection will make efforts to have the new EIA law adopted before the Meeting of the Parties to ensure compliance by Armenia with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention.

Focal Point to the Aarhus Convention in Armenia



Prof. A. Iskoyan