



МІНІСТЭРСТВА  
ПРЫРОДНЫХ РЭСУРСАЎ І АХОВЫ  
НАВАКОЛЬНАГА АСЯРОДДЗЯ  
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ

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04.02.2016 № 14-7/257-61  
На № \_\_\_\_\_ ад \_\_\_\_\_

МИНИСТЕРСТВО  
ПРИРОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ И ОХРАНЫ  
ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ

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Unofficial translation

United Nations Economic  
Commission for Europe

Compliance Committee of the  
Convention on Access to  
Information, Public Participation  
in Decision-making and Access to  
Justice in Environmental Matters

Chairman Mr. Jonas Ebbeson

Dear Mr. Ebbeson,

We hereby express our gratitude to the Compliance Committee of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (hereinafter referred to as the Aarhus Convention) for providing the comments of the NGO "Ecodom" on the second report of Belarus on implementation of the Decision V/9c of the Meeting of the Parties and would like to inform on the following.

The main part of the recommendations contained in this decision concerns improvement of the national legislation and contains direct indications on the need to change its regulations. In this regard, the main purpose of development of the draft law was to implement recommendations contained in the Decision V/9c of the Meeting of the Parties.

In the statement of 27 November 2015, the NGO "Ecodom" made comments, which it has not provided before during the public discussion of the draft law (paragraph a,b,g<sup>1</sup> point 1).

The comment provided in paragraph c<sup>2</sup> point 1 was rejected on the stage of discussion of the draft law with civil society and that fact was reflected in the Summary table of comments and suggestions on a draft Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Amendments and Supplements to Some Laws

<sup>1</sup> according to the Russian version: пункт 1 а,б,ж.

<sup>2</sup> according to the Russian version: пункт 1в).

Republic of Belarus on Environmental Protection and Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmentally Significant Matters”.

Decision V/9c of the Meeting of the Parties does not contain recommendation on public participation in drafting of regulations (Article 8 of the Aarhus Convention)(paragraph d<sup>3</sup> point 1 of the comments). It was the own initiation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus to lay down the norm on public participation in discussions of normative-legal acts of the Republic of Belarus in Article 15<sup>2</sup> (with regard to provisions aimed at regulating relations connected with carrying out of economic and other activities related to environmentally hazardous according to the criteria defined by the President of the Republic of Belarus or a state body authorized by him to do so). This fact testifies that the Republic of Belarus aims at introducing the provisions of the Aarhus Convention into the national legislation.

We would like to draw attention to the fact, that point 3 of the comments contains incorrect information. The inquiry of the NGO “Ecodom” of 21 November 2014 № 340 about provision of information, addressed to the Gosatomnadzor of the Department for supervision over safe work procedures in industry of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus has been considered according to the order, laid down by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus on appeals of citizens and legal entities. A detailed response of 8 December 2014 № 01-01-10/20-Юр was sent to the applicant by post. The NGO “Ecodom” requested in the inquiry the materials of inspection, and not a report on inspection, whereas the inquiry did not specify what was exactly meant under “materials of inspection”. The “Ecodom” did not appeal for additional information.

We would also like to note, that the Gosatomnadzor within the framework of the authorities granted to it, carries out constant control over implementation of prescribed activities, according to the legislation of the Republic of Belarus in force. Taking into account recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Gosatomnadzor gives regular coverage to the activities for surveillance of the construction of the Belarusian NPP, posts the results of comprehensive inspections on the web-site of the Department and holds media events.

Furthermore, we would like to inform, that the draft Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Amendments and Supplements to Some Laws of the Republic of Belarus on Environmental Protection and Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmentally Significant Matters” was adopted 24 December 2015 № 333-3. Supplements to Article 15<sup>2</sup> “Public discussions of drafts of environmentally significant decisions, reports on environmental impact

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<sup>3</sup> according to the Russian version: пункт 1г)

assessment” have not been made since the adoption of the draft Law on second reading.

- Annex: - Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Amendments and Supplements to Some Laws of the Republic of Belarus on Environmental Protection and Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmentally Significant Matters” in 1 copy on 13 pages;
- Copy of the request of the public association “Ecodom” of 21 November 2014 № 340;
  - Response of the Department for nuclear and radiation safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus addressed to the public association “Ecodom” of 8 December 2014 № 01-01-1-/20-юп.

Sincerely Yours,

First Deputy Minister  
National Coordinator



Iya Malkina