



Executive Secretary
Under-Secretary-General

27 August 2019

Ref.: 2019/OES/251/ENV/126

Excellency,

I have the honour to write to you pursuant to paragraph 19 of decision VI/8 on general issues of compliance of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), enclosed.

To recall, through paragraph 19 of decision VI/8, the Meeting of the Parties has requested the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee to review the compliance of Turkmenistan with article 3(1), (4) and (9) of the Convention in light of the amendments to the Act of Public Associations of 4 February 2017 with respect to the possibilities for foreign citizens and persons without citizenship to found and participate in non-governmental organizations promoting environmental protection. This request was registered under the symbol ACCC/M/2017/2.

On 8 March 2019, I had the honour of writing to you to enclose the Compliance Committee's first progress review on the progress made by Turkmenistan to implement paragraph 19 of decision VI/8. In paragraph 21 of the first progress review, the Committee called on Turkmenistan to submit its outstanding answers to questions 7-22 of the Committee's questions dated 5 September 2018 "as a matter of urgency". Turkmenistan duly did so on 25 April 2019.

After taking into account the information received by that date, the Committee prepared a supplementary first progress review and adopted it through its electronic decision-making procedure on 16 August 2019. The Committee thereafter requested me to forward you its supplementary first progress review.

His Excellency
Mr. Rashid Meredov
Deputy Chair of the Cabinet of Ministers and
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan
Ashgabat

Mindful that the implementation of paragraph 19 of decision VI/8 requires the close cooperation of several relevant authorities, in particular the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Protection of the Environment and Land Resources as well as the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan and the relevant committees of the Parliament, I invite you to convey a copy of this letter and the enclosed supplementary first progress review to these and any other bodies competent for the matters addressed in paragraph 19 of decision VI/8.

I would like to draw to your attention that, through paragraph 66 of the enclosed supplementary first progress review, the Committee invites Turkmenistan to provide a second progress report by **1 October 2019** on the progress it has by that date made to implement paragraph 19 of decision VI/8.

I would also like to draw to your attention that all measures to implement paragraph 19 of decision VI/8 must be taken and reported on by no later than **1 October 2020** in order to be considered by the Committee in its report on request ACCC/M/2017/2 to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties.

I can inform you that, should Turkmenistan demonstrate to the Committee that it is fully in compliance with respect to the matters within the scope of paragraph 19 of decision VI/8, the Committee will report that fact to the seventh 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 seventh session.

On behalf of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), I would like to thank Turkmenistan for its ongoing support to the activities of the Aarhus Convention and express the willingness of the secretariat to work with the Government of Turkmenistan in meeting its obligations under the Aarhus Convention. Please do not hesitate to contact the secretariat (aarhus.compliance@un.org) if you require any further information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Olga Algayerova

Enclosures

cc:

Mr. Dowran Yagmyrov, Environmental Protection Department, State Committee on Environmental Protection and Land Resources of Turkmenistan