

Ref.: 2019/OES/082/ENV/4236

7 March 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to write to you at the request of the Compliance Committee of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) to share with you the Compliance Committee's first progress review concerning the request ACCC/M/2017/2 by the Meeting of the Parties.

To recall, through paragraph 19 of decision VI/8, the Meeting of the Parties requested the Compliance Committee, pursuant to paragraph 13(b) of the annex to decision I/7, to review the compliance of Turkmenistan with articles 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.

On 5 September 2018, I had the honour of writing to you enclosing questions from the Compliance Committee for Turkmenistan's reply, requesting Turkmenistan to provide its answers to questions 1-6 by 1 October 2018 and its answers to questions 7-22 by 1 December 2018. Turkmenistan provided its reply to questions 1, 3, 5 and 6 on 1 October 2018, and its additional reply to questions 1-6 on 19 February 2019. To date, no answers to questions 7-22 have been received.

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

In a letter of 7 December 2018, the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Protection of the Environment and Land Resources stated that questions 7-22 required more time to answer due to the need for interdepartmental coordination, as these questions relate to activities regulated by the Ministry of Justice. Bearing this in mind, the Compliance Committee has asked me to invite you to forward this letter and the enclosed first progress review to the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Protection of the Environment and Land Resources as well as to the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan and to the relevant committees of the Parliament.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of cooperating with the Compliance Committee, which plays a key role in assisting Parties in their efforts to comply with the Convention.

On behalf of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), I would like to 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@unece.org) if you require any further information.

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


Olga Algayerova

Enclosure

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