

## **Advice provided by the Compliance Committee to Azerbaijan within the Consultation process ECE/MP.WH/CC/CONS/2**

### **Adopted by the Compliance Committee on 12 January**

In preparation for the Consultation Process, the Committee has carefully analysed the summary report submitted by Azerbaijan in May 2013 within the second reporting cycle. Based on this analysis, the Committee has identified a number of areas related to the Protocol's implementation that were subsequently discussed at the consultation with Azerbaijan on 20 October 2015.

Having considered the presentation made by Azerbaijan as well as the outcomes of the discussion between country representatives and Committee members, the Committee wishes to provide its advice as follows:

- With regard to the national target-setting process under the Protocol, the Committee recommends to:
  - Ensure that the relevant national working group involves all relevant authorities and other stakeholders, in particular non-governmental organizations, water users' associations, etc.;
  - Establish an information database that would deliver a total aggregated dataset for the entire country for all target areas under the Protocol;
  - When developing and finalizing the targets and target dates under all target areas, due account shall be taken of the fact that the target areas under article 6, para. 2 are interlinked and form a system aiming at achieving the overall Protocol's objective;
  - Besides the interministerial consultation, carry out public consultations regarding draft targets and target dates allowing the public sufficient time to provide comments;
  - Approve the targets and target dates by a decision of the Government;
  - Publish the targets and target dates once adopted and communicate the adoption to the joint secretariat;
  - Ensure that existing relevant programme or strategy documents as well as the future policies are brought in accordance with the individual targets and target dates, as appropriate.
  
- With regard to the possible harmonization and revisions of the water and health-related legislation of Azerbaijan after becoming a Party to the Protocol, the Committee recommends to:
  - Ensure that the water sector reform in Azerbaijan, including the efforts to adapt the relevant legislation to international standards takes due account of the requirements under the Protocol on Water and Health;
  - Ensure that the legal framework for an efficient financing is up to date and urge the municipalities to have a sustainable economic system for financing water works and sewerage systems that are sufficient and adequate for building networks and treatment plants, as well as the daily service, operation and maintenance;
  - Build capacity to educate and train water and sanitation experts at different levels;
  - Aim at strengthening international cooperation in transboundary river basins, in particular in the Kura river basin through, as appropriate, establishing bilateral institutional arrangements and developing relevant measures, including transboundary monitoring.
  
- With regard to the preparation process for the national summary report in accordance with the Protocol, the Committee recommends to:
  - Establish a national working group involving relevant authorities and other stakeholders in the collection and evaluation of data as well as the preparation and use of the national summary report;

- Develop, publish and apply in practice detailed modalities for public participation in the development of the national summary report;
- Comply with the format and timeframe for preparation as well as the deadline for submission of the national summary report.

The Committee makes itself available to respond to any questions raised in relation to the present advice and stands ready to provide further advice, as needed. The Committee members may also, if considered beneficial for the internal country processes and provided funds are available, pay a country visit to hold further discussions with country authorities.