

## **Task Force on Access to Justice**

### **Ninth meeting**

Geneva, 14–15 June 2016

Items 2 (b) of the provisional agenda

### **Promoting effective access to justice: recent developments**

### **Update on capacity-building initiative**

## **STATEMENT**

**by Ms. Tina Janjatovic, the national focal point of Serbia**

Based on the Guide on the Right of Access to Justice in Matters related to Environmental Protection in Administrative Procedures and Administrative Disputes, prepared in 2013 with support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia<sup>1</sup>, were held the two training seminars for the representatives of justice. The first one was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015. in the city of Arandjelovac. The second training seminar for the representatives of justice was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015. in the city of Vrdnik.

Based on the the Manual on Environmental Protection in Civil and Criminal Law<sup>2</sup>, prepared in 2015. with support of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, was held the training seminar for the representatives of justice on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015. in the city of Vrnjacka Banja and on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016. in the city of Belgrade.

The training seminars were organized in cooperation with the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, OSCE Mission to Serbia and Judicial Academy.

Approximately one hundred judges attended these seminars.

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<sup>1</sup> In May 2013. The former Ministry in charged for environmental protection, with the support of the Organization for security and Cooperation in Europe (Mission to Serbia), carried out a project to create the Manual on the Right of Access to Justice in Matters related to Environmental Protection in Administrative Procedures and Administrative Disputes. The Manual on the Right of Access to Justice in Matters related to Environmental Protection in Administrative Procedures and Administrative Disputes is intended for civil servants who conduct procedures with elements of environmental law and make environmental decisions mandatorily involving the public in that process; representatives of civil society and general public, as guardians of the collective interest and direct participants in the environmental decision-making; judges dealing with administrative judicial matters, as carriers of the implementation of the third pillar of the Aarhus Convention, related to the right to legal protection in environmental matters; undergraduate and postgraduate students who in accordance with the syllabus for the Environmental Law Course, should become familiar with the complex issue of the right of access to justice in matters of importance for environmental protection.

<sup>2</sup> In January 2015, with the support of the Organization for security and Cooperation in Europe (Mission to Serbia), the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia finalized a project to create the Manual on Environmental Protection in Civil and Criminal Law. The Manual on Environmental Protection in Civil and Criminal Law is intended for criminal and civil court judges, prosecutors, law students, environmental inspectors and civil society. The Manual contains an analysis of environmental liability, environmental damage and environmental damage compensation in different national regulations and international treaties as well as a review of legal instruments governing the protection of the environment through civil and criminal law. The Manual also place strong emphasis on the public role in initiating and participating in environmental criminal and civil procedures.