

PROGRESS REPORT

Concerning implementation of Decision V/9a of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

The information provided hereafter refers to the measures stipulated in the 1st Progress review prepared by the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee.

- (a) The Law of RA “On Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise” was adopted by the National Assembly of Armenia on 21 June 2014 and came into effect on 09 August 2014. Based on Article 26 of the mentioned Law concerning the main principles of public participation, Governmental Decree N1325 “On Defining the Order of Public Notification and Discussions” was adopted on 19 November 2014 and came into effect on 13 December 2014. These legal acts have been translated into English with financial support of OSCE, and are Annex 1 and Annex 2 subsequently to the present Progress Report for Review by the Compliance Committee. We believe that these two pieces of legislation address the recommendations in the Decision V/9a.

- (b) The draft Law “On Non-governmental Organizations” and the draft amendments to the Administrative Procedure Code initially included provisions to address the legal standing of NGOs. However, those provisions have been redacted by the Government and after approval they no longer address standing issues. Currently these drafts are pending before the National Assembly of RA and are likely to be included in the spring agenda. Therefore, we do not provide the English translation of the mentioned legal acts. We admit that there are still considerable efforts to be carried out by the Government of Armenia to reach full compliance with Article 9 paragraph 2 of the Aarhus Convention.

- (c) In March 2015, the Academy of Justice approved the Course Program “Actual Problems of Environmental Law” which is included in the mandatory training program for judges specialized in Administrative law and procedure. The course duration is 10 academic hours. In October-November 2015, the training was conducted for 16 judges. Annex 3 to this Progress report introduces the thematic scope of the training. Starting from 2016 the same course will be taught also for the candidates of judges and probably also for advocates.