

From: catalina radulescu

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To: ECE-Aarhus-Compliance <aarhus.compliance@un.org>

Cc: Dorina Mocanu; Daniela Pineta; Gabriele Popescu; mission.romania; Justice and Environment

Subject: Re: Decision VI/8h (Romania) - Committee's second progress review

Dear all,

This our statement concerning the VI/8h decision's progress review:

1. the legislation concerning access to environmental information has not been improved, and also. We have still encountered many situations when public information were denied to the public and the requests were rejected:

1. The request of information regarding emissions of the coal power plants, rejected by Energy Complex Oltenia and Gorj Environmental Agency. The court decided that the information is public. The decision was partly executed. The information regarding the emissions of the Turceni Coal Power Plant were not communicated.

2. The Forest Managements Plans for Natura 2000 sites are still not public even if they are part of larger strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment. All the public authorities have rejected the disclosure of the forest managements plans invoking the exception from acces to information - intellectual property of the experts that realized the study. Most of the requests were won in court. However, the Minister of Environment and the state owned company administrating the forests and most of the Natura 2000 sites, are still refusing to execute the court decisions and are denying such requests.

3. Regarding the training: the environmental law including access to information is not included in the curricula of any Law University. For most of the Universities the environmental law is an optional, usually not followed by the students. There are no master studied or doctoral studies. The Barr Associations (of lawyers) are not organizing any studies in this area. No training was announced by the Government and from the attitude of the public administration towards access to information it is very clear that even if there were studies the level and the quality were not aligned with the Aarhus Convention standards.

Best regards,

Catalina Radulescu