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№ 5667/09/10-08

**To the Committee of Economic Commission for Europe
of the Compliance of the Aarhus Convention**

06 of May, 2008 y.

Ministry of the Environmental Protection of Ukraine expresses the respect for the Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe which relates to the matters of the Aarhus Convention and also to the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention.

Ministry of the Environmental Protection of Ukraine attaches the significance for the realization of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in Ukraine which were ratified by the Parliament of Ukraine in 1999.

The decision which were adopted in Alma-Ata on the 25th-27th of May 2005 at the time of Second meeting of the Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe which regards to the compliance matters of the Aarhus Convention (paragraph 3 decision II/5 b) recommended to Ukraine to work out the strategic decisions according to the implantation of principles of the Aarhus Convention, and the Ministry of Ukraine apprehend as obligatory to execute.

All this period Ministry of Ecology continue to progressively work on the system-defined implantation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention (access to information, public participation in the procedure of the decision-making as for matters of the environment) and very grateful to the Committee of Economic Commission for Europe of the compliance matters of the Aarhus Convention for the notification of the help and understanding of the situation which were present.

In June of 2006, the Ministry of Ecology nominated the main contact person for the matters of the Aarhus Convention (National Focal Point of the Aarhus Convention). After this date, the Ministry of Ecology worked out the project with the list of the main arrangements which were foreseen to include to the plan of implantation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention. After informing the famous public organizations of Ukraine during the meetings of the 13th session on the 4-6th of the October 2006, this document were presented to the Committee of Economic Commission for Europe of the compliance matters of the Aarhus Convention. During the discussion a lot of valuable and commercial recommendations were received.

The defined delay in the implementing the decision II/5 b, paragraph 3 of the Committee of Economic Commission for Europe of the compliance matters of the Aarhus Convention is explaining by the difficult social and political situation in Ukraine from the second decade of 2005, 2006 and 2007 and so on, which were

interrelated with the time of election of the Parliament of Ukraine and also following-up changes in the structure of the Parliament of Ukraine including the officials of Ministry of Ecology. In the conditions of the social and political situation, the Ministry only in 2007 was able to decide an issue in Parliament of Ukraine to finance the research and work out the project of strategic planning implantation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention.

After the end of the tender procedures in which were invited jurisdiction organizations of ecological direction, and public organizations which have work experience in the field of working out the legislation for the environmental protection. The next project of the document was prepared by the executor (public organization “Ukrainian sector of the international organization “Ecology of a person”) and the process of the consultation with the public were organized.

During the consultations with the public a lot of contradictory remarks were received to the extent of the lobbying in the presenting of the offers.

At this time, the Ministry of Ecology integrated all of the remarks received from the public and also life-length of number of the working discussions with the Secretary of Economic Commission for Europe of the compliance matters of the Aarhus Convention prepared and maintained the Plan of strategic decisions of the Ministry of Ecology on the implantation of the Aarhus Convention in Ukraine.

The maintained plan of the strategic decisions on the implantation of The Aarhus Convention in Ukraine neatly define the main corresponding strategic objectives and movements, forthcoming result, specific responsible performers and the time of the execution.

Adjusted to that in Ukraine besides the requests of the Constitution of Ukraine, the questions on the access of the public to information, it assistance participation in the process of the decision-making and access to the justice questions which are related to the environment define 18 laws of Ukraine, 7 decrees from the President of Ukraine, maintained Plan of the strategic decisions of the Ministry of Ecology on the implantation of the Aarhus Convention in Ukraine will contribute to the real realization of the citizen rights which are presented by the Aarhus Convention.

The following implantation of the Aarhus Convention directed on the strengthening of the legal mechanism on the realization of the citizen rights corresponding by the attraction them in the process of the realization of the governmental politics, order on the access to the information which propose the bodies of the governmental execution powers and local self-government corresponding the permission for the nature management, pollution of the environment, direct pollutants, influence on the environmental objects of the new construction and exploitation of energy, production and processing of the metal, processing the mineral materials, chemical industry, sewage, processing and extraction of the waste, production of the oil and natural gas, corresponding reports, registers and cadastres.

The Ministry of the Ecology considers one of the strategic objectives is to improve the work on the implantation of the main principles of the Aarhus Convention by some central execution powers in Ukraine (the energy matters, chemical industry, outliers, and chops, waste, mining operations, water-protection zones, preservation of the woods, genetically modified organisms).

The realization of the citizen rights, which are stated by the Aarhus Convention (access to the ecological information, public participation procedure in the ecological decision making) will obtain absolutely other quality when this direction will be as integral part of the pollutant-enterprises, users-enterprises of the natural resources, and the considerable part of them would be presented as non-governmental organizations (Open Stock Companies, Close Stock Companies).

Ministry of Ecology plans to get to realization of the Plan of the strategic decisions on the implantation of the Aarhus Convention in Ukraine by attracting Scientifics and public organizations of the direction on protection of the environment and continue to initiate to the full solution of the every step of the plan.

Addendum: Plan of the strategic decisions on the implantation of the Aarhus Convention in Ukraine (3 pages).

Minister *(Signature)*

G. Philipchuk

Copies: - Ministry of the Foreign Affairs
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