



**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

---

**Statement by Mr Mladen Rudez, National Focal Point  
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**5th Meeting of the Parties, Maastricht, 29 June-4 July 2014**

Distinguished Chair,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to update you on the most recent developments regarding the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Second National Implementation Report on Aarhus Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina was successfully prepared with technical and administrative assistance of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, through a project funded by the government of Germany,
- The Aarhus Centers Network (3 centers) was included in the working group from the start. The network developed a detailed questionnaire for NGOs and sent it 156 NGOs across the country. 24 of them replied with information relevant to the report,
- Overall, 31 institutions at different government levels and 24 NGOs participated in the report's preparation.

Highlights of the report: Bosnia and Herzegovina noted some progress in the implementation of the Convention. The access to justice pillar remains the weakest link - however, in the report's preparation, we began collecting statistics and decisions in judicial review cases to have a better idea into the jurisprudence now developing in Bosnia and Herzegovina; there is some improvement in the public participation process - it is important that we have a national network of Aarhus Centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina to assist in the implementation of the Convention and help with raising public awareness about their rights and responsibilities.

It is my pleasure to inform you that Bosnia and Herzegovina has begun internal consultations on the ratification of the GMO amendment. As regards the PRTR protocol, we are implementing activities to comply with the Protocol's provisions, and the consultations on its ratification are ongoing.

Also, I am pleased to announce that the Civil Service Agency of BiH will introduce, as of September this year, an online learning course on transparency in environmental governance, which will be part of the general training curriculum for the civil servants. The German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) is funding the production of this course with training material provided by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. This online course is first of its kind in the region.

Thank you for your attention!