

**MINUTES**  
**of the Round Table on**  
**Compliance by the Republic of Kazakhstan with its Obligations**  
**under the Aarhus Convention**

Shymkent

26 January 2012

**Participants:**

Farmers, rural business people and NGO and media representatives.

A total of 19 people participated.

**AGENDA:**

- 1. Compliance by the Republic of Kazakhstan with its obligations under the Aarhus Convention and environmental problems in South Kazakhstan Oblast**
- 2. Any other competent business**

The coordinator of the Shymkent Regional Aarhus Centre, R. Karaibragimov, spoke on the first item on the agenda. He informed those present that the Environmental Code of 2007 takes into consideration the requirements of the Aarhus Convention as regards public access to environmental information and participation in decision-making. The Environmental Code enshrines the right of legal and natural persons to participate in decision-making by state authorities on environmental matters. He talked about the goals and functions of the Shymkent Regional Aarhus Centre and its work to provide training and advice to producers of agricultural goods and farmers on the Aarhus Convention. He familiarised participants with the recommendations adopted at the Round Table on Compliance by the Republic of Kazakhstan with its Obligations under the Aarhus Convention (Astana, 13 December 2011).

The farmers and rural business people discussed the environmental issues relating to their businesses and in particular increasing the level of groundwater, soil salination, the deterioration of pastures near to villages, decreasing vegetation, the reduced amount of water available for watering crops and other questions.

Access to information on the environment and resource use was discussed.

The introduction of new energy and resource-efficient technologies (mini solar power stations, biogas plants, drip irrigation, etc.) was discussed.

Participants discussed possible ways in which farmers and rural residents from remote areas could receive practical information on new energy-efficient technologies, environmental protection, the efficient use of resources and good environmental management.

The farmers and rural business people attending examined the recommendations and made their own proposals:

- increase access to information in *oblast* and district courts on judicial decisions on applications submitted by citizens and NGOs to the judicial authorities on compliance

with the Aarhus Convention as the courts currently restrict access to such information, as evidenced by letter no. 5-18/10842 dated 15.12.2011 to our request for information on judicial decisions on compliance with the Aarhus Convention;

- provision of training and advice to producers of agricultural goods and farmers on application of the Aarhus Convention;

- organise the collection and publication on websites of information from citizens and NGOs concerned on the application of the Aarhus Convention, information on the provisions and rules of application of the Aarhus Convention as well as information on practical experience of applying and using the Aarhus Convention.

At this point, the agenda had been discussed in full.

Coordinator  
Shymkent Regional Aarhus Centre

R.K. Karaibragimov