

From: ECE-Aarhus-Compliance

Sent: 25 May 2020 12:36 PM

To: Altyn Balabayeva

Cc: Fiona Marshall; Ella Behlyarova; N Dauletyarova; Murzabekova

Subject: ACCC/A/2020/2 (Kazakhstan) - request for advice

Dear Ms. Balabayeva,

I refer to Kazakhstan's request of 14 May 2020 to the Compliance Committee for advice on whether carrying out public hearings through video conferencing during the coronavirus pandemic would meet the requirements of the Convention.

The Chair of the Committee confirms the readiness of the Committee to provide the requested advice. The Committee expresses its appreciation to Kazakhstan for its proactive approach in reaching out to the Committee on this important and very timely matter.

I write now to explain the Committee's procedure and approximate timeframe for doing so.

In accordance with its usual procedure, Kazakhstan's request for advice will be published on the Committee's website at <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc/assistance.html> and will be given the case reference ACCC/A/2020/2. Please let me know by return email if Kazakhstan objects to its request for advice being published on the website, as this may mean that, due to the requirement that all Committee documents be made public, the Committee would not be in a position to provide the requested advice.

Also in line with its usual procedure, in order for members of the public to have an opportunity provide any comments they may have on the substance of the request, once the request has been posted on the Committee's website, the European ECO Forum focal point, representing an international network of environmental NGOs following the work of the Committee, would be informed of the request. Members of the public would thereafter have one week to submit to the Compliance Committee any written comments they may have.

In parallel, we would encourage Kazakhstan and the Kazakhstan Aarhus Centre to reach out to Kazakh environmental NGOs and other members of the public to invite them to send any comments they may have to aarhus.compliance@un.org within the one week deadline.

Following the expiration of the one week commenting deadline, the Committee will prepare its draft advice which will then be sent forthwith to Kazakhstan and any persons who have submitted comments for a short commenting period (one week). The draft advice will be posted on the Committee's website at the same time.

Upon the expiration of the commenting period on its draft advice, the Committee will promptly finalize and adopt its advice taking into account any comments received. The Committee's advice once adopted will be posted on the website.

Thus, the major steps as described above are:

1. Kazakhstan confirms as soon as possible by return email if its request for advice can be published on the Committee's website in accordance with the Committee's procedures.

2. Once published, interested environmental NGOs and members of the public, especially those from Kazakhstan have one week to comment on the substance of the request
3. The Committee prepares its draft advice, sends it to Kazakhstan and makes it available on the website. Kazakhstan and interested NGOs and members of the public have one week to comment on the draft advice.
4. The Committee finalises the draft advice taking into account the comments received and adopts it.
5. The final advice is sent to Kazakhstan and published on the website.

Based on the above timeline, we anticipate that the Committee should be in a position to send you its draft advice in 2-3 weeks from the moment that you confirm that the Committee may proceed to post Kazakhstan's request for advice on its website. We thus look forward to your confirmation on this point by return.

I hope the above overview is of assistance. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Fiona



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