

MINISTERUL
AGRICULTURII,
DEZVOLTĂRII REGIONALE
ȘI MEDIULUI
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE,
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
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12.05.2019 No. *18-08/2543*

To no. _____ from _____

**Compliance Committee of the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making
and Access to Justice in Environmental
Matters (Aarhus Convention),
UN ECE**

**CC: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
European Integration**

Subject: communication ACCC/C/2017/147 concerning compliance by the Republic of Moldova (Ref.: 2019/OES/085/ENV/4240, as of 12 March 2019)

Excellency,

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova I would like to inform you, that after Parliamentary elections in February 2019, in June 2019 was formed a new governing coalition in the Republic of Moldova and created a new Government. The Ministry maintained its position in the new Government and the new Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment is Ms Georgeta MINCU.

In these new governing conditions, we would like to acknowledge, that in the previous period of time, unfortunately, failed to properly react on the letters from the Convention, timely implement its international and national obligations under the Aarhus Convention, including the one of concern which since 2017 is under the examination of the Compliance Committee. The previous National Focal Point, who was not very active since this problem occurred, is no more member of the staff of the ministry and we hope to gradually, with the support and recommendations from the Compliance Committee, to address the situation and improve the process of implementation of the Convention in the country.

We recognize, that the situation that happened two years ago have to be re-examined and carefully solved. For this we plan to undertake the following actions:

- Re-establish and update the Working Group for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Republic of Moldova by end of July 2019 (maintaining in these group 3-4 representatives of NGOs, including the representative of the Association Eco-TIRAS);
- Organize and periodically conduct the meeting(s) of the above mentioned WG, elaborate its Plan of Actions for the Implementation of the Convention and examine the incompliance case as of September 2017 – in July-October 2019;
- Develop and send to the Secretariat the report on Convention implementation;
- Initiate the revision of the legislation and regulations, indicated in the issue of concern (terms and issues related to the primary information, reasonable cost for analytical information, etc.) and integrate the process of their amendment/change into the plan of actions of the ministry;
- Nominate the new National Focal Point to the Aarhus Convention.

At the same time we would like to mention, that this particular case between the Association Eco-TIRAS and the State Hydrometeorological Service have a specific interpretation, or misinterpretation from both sides, as finally the access to the requested information was provided and the payment was requested not for the primary data (for which the Eco-TIRAS representative was invited to the office), but for the preparation of the processes analytical information, which require staff time and additional separate work. The issue of interpretation of primary, historical and processed/analytical information and of calculation of the payment for it hopefully will be possible to be solved by adjusting the legal and regulatory base of concern and re-examine this case in the framework of the re-established Working Group for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Moldova.

We express our readiness to prepare the necessary explanations and come with additional clarification and information on the above-mentioned case and the process of implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Moldova at the next meeting of the Compliance Committee on 4-8 November 2019.

In addition to the previous information, we would like to inform you that as part of governmental and environmental institutions reform in the Republic of Moldova, in July 2018 was established the Environmental Agency, as a sub-division of the Ministry with the main objective of the implementation of the environmental policies, including in the field of environmental information. Within the Agency – there is a Division of integrated environmental information and the National Environmental Reference Laboratory was established. We consider this will mark a change and improvement in the system of management, collection and dissemination of the environmental information in the country.

Please, kindly take note, that the newly nominated National Focal Point for the Aarhus Convention since July 2019 will be: Mr Victor Gălușcă, Head of soil and subsoil Service from the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, phone: + 373 22204508, e-mail: victor.galusca@madrm.gov.md

We are looking forward for an efficient and fruitful collaboration with the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention and with the Compliance Committee in order to find positive solution and constructive way forward in solving this particular case and resultative implementation of the provisions of the Convention in our country.

Excellency, please, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely Yours,



Valentina TAPIŞ

**State Secretary for environment
protection and natural resources**