

On June 30, 2017 the Spanish parliamentary group "PODEMOS" presented before the Congress of Deputies a "Proposition of Law" to reform Law 1/1996, of Free Legal Aid. The purpose of this reform was to comply with the recommendations of the Compliance Committee and the Conference of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention, which have been carried out since 2014 (Decision V / 9k) and which have declared non-compliance regarding Spain. Specifically, the article that is intended to be introduced in Law 1/1996, article 2 letter j), determines the right of legal aid to environmental NGOs without the need to prove insufficient economic means to litigate, and the declaration of "public utility". This places environmental NGOs in a situation identical to consumer associations and victims of terrorism associations. This declaration of article 2. letter j) eliminates the problems that environmental NGOs are currently having to obtain the recognition of free legal aid according to article 23 of Law 27/2006, which develops the Aarhus Convention in Spain and fulfills the mandate of Article 9.5 of the Convention.

Please follow attached the publication of the Bulletin of the Congress of Deputies where the Proposed Law is included and a justification of it, which was sent to the Government of Spain to issue its opinion on the matter.

We do not know the reaction of the Government of Spain to this proposal of Law and if this proposal has followed its way in the Congress of Deputies.