

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Seventh session

Geneva, 18–20 October 2021

Excerpt from the addendum to the report of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1)*

Decision VII/8p concerning compliance by Spain with its obligations under the Convention

Adopted by the Meeting of Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its seventh session

The Meeting of the Parties,

Acting under paragraph 37 of the annex to its decision I/7 on the review of compliance,¹

Mindful of the conclusions and recommendations set out in its decision VI/8j with regard to compliance by Spain,²

Taking note of the report of the Compliance Committee under the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters on the implementation of decision VI/8j concerning compliance by Spain with its obligations under the Convention,³

Encouraged by the willingness of Spain to discuss in a constructive manner with the Committee the compliance issues in question,

1. *Endorses* the findings of the Committee that, while welcoming the positive steps made in that direction, the Party concerned has not yet fully met the requirements of paragraphs 3 or 7 of decision VI/8j;

2. *Reaffirms* its decision VI/8j, and requests the Party concerned to:

(a) Take measures, as a matter of urgency, to ensure that the remaining obstacles to the full implementation of article 9 (4) and (5) of the Convention with respect to legal aid for non-governmental organizations identified by the Committee in paragraph 66 of its findings on communication ACCC/C/2009/36 are overcome,⁴ and in particular that its Legal Aid Commissions act in accordance with the decisions dated 16 January 2018 and 13 March 2019 of the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court in practice;

* The full text of addendum to the report of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.1) will, in due course, be available in English, French and Russian from https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/Aarhus_Convention_MoP7.

¹ ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.8.

² ECE/MP.PP/2017/2/Add.1.

³ ECE/MP.PP/2021/57.

⁴ ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2010/4/Add.2.

(b) Take the necessary legislative, regulatory or other measures and practical arrangements to ensure that, in each of its Autonomous Communities, the public is promptly informed of decisions on integrated environmental permits taken under article 6 (9) of the Convention not only through the Internet, but also through other means, including, but not necessarily limited to, the methods used to inform the public concerned pursuant to article 6 (2) of the Convention;

(c) Submit a plan of action, including a time schedule, to the Committee by 1 July 2022 regarding the implementation of the above recommendations;

(d) Provide detailed progress reports to the Committee by 1 October 2023 and 1 October 2024 on the measures taken and the results achieved in the implementation of the plan of action and the above recommendations;

(e) Provide such further information as the Committee may request in order to assist it to review the progress by the Party concerned in implementing the above recommendations;

(f) Participate (either in person or by virtual means) in the meetings of the Committee at which the progress of the Party concerned in implementing the above recommendations is to be considered;

3. *Undertakes* to review the situation at its eighth session.
