

71ST ACCC MEETING

Report on Sessions of July 2021

1. Background

From 7 to 9 July 2021, the 71st meeting of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (ACCC) was held in Geneva. Part of the agenda was the discussion on the final progress reports of the member states on their implementation of the obligations under the Aarhus Convention. Furthermore, newly submitted communications from the public were screened and decisions on their future treatment were taken.

Implementation proceedings concerning nuclear issues included Decision VI/8e concerning the Czech Republic as well as Decision VI/8i concerning Slovakia. ÖKOBÜRO attended both hearings via video conference.

The documents related to the meeting of the ACCC can be accessed online via <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/seventy-first-meeting-compliance-committee-aarhus-convention>.

2. Decision VI/8i - Slovakia

The ACCC welcomed the pro-active approach taken by Slovakia when reporting to the ACCC. According to the ACCC, Slovakia will have met the requirements of Decision VI/8i but only after the proposed amendment to the Directive on Sensitive Information has fully entered into force.

However, it remains unclear when that is going to be the case.

Slovakia also briefly mentioned an update regarding article 8 of the Atomic Act (even though, according to the Party, it was not covered by the scope of Decision VI/8i). The respective amendment was adopted by the National Council and now enters the next stage of the legislative procedure.

Documents on the implementation of Decision VI/8i are available online via:

<https://unece.org/env/pp/cc/decision-vi8i-concerning-slovakia>

3. Decision VI/8e – Czech Republic

The ACCC made it clear that even though it had been de facto possible for the public to participate in transboundary proceedings, the Aarhus Convention also requires the members states to implement regulatory measures for public participation.

Regarding the NPP Temelín, there has not been new information on behalf of Czechia regarding aspects of public participation.

The ACCC offered its support and council with the implementation of the obligations under the Aarhus Convention.

The Czech Republic informed that the Ministry of the Environment was in the process of internal reorganisation and that there was also going to be a change of the National Contact Point.

Documents on the implementation of Decision VI/8e are available online via:

<https://unece.org/env/pp/cc/decision-vi8e-concerning-czechia>