

# Slovakia

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## **Input on Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) from 21 January 2019 until 11 October 2023**

to the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Universal Periodic Review under the auspices of the UN Human Rights Council

### **I. National Implementation Reports**

- Aarhus Convention: [NIR 2021](#)
- Protocol on PRTRs: [NIR 2021](#)

### **II. Pending Communications before Compliance Committee**

N/A

### **III. Compliance Committee's Findings**

- Aarhus Convention: Findings and recommendations with regard to communication ACCC/C/2014/120 concerning compliance by Slovakia adopted on 24 July 2021 [ENG](#) [FRE](#) [RUS](#)

Summary: On 8 December 2014, civic association VIA IURIS, submitted a communication to the Compliance Committee alleging a failure by Slovakia to comply with its obligations under articles 8 and 9 (3) of the Aarhus Convention in relation to legislation concerning forestry. More specifically, the communicant alleged that the Party concerned failed to provide public participation in the preparation of an amendment to forestry legislation in 2013 and access to justice to enforce rules governing public participation in the preparation of such legislation. In its findings adopted on 24 July 2021, the Committee did not find the Party concerned to be in non-compliance with articles 8, 9 (3) or 3 (1) of the Convention in the circumstances of this case.

## IV. Decisions of the Meeting of the Parties on Compliance

- Aarhus Convention: At its sixth session (Budva, Montenegro, 11–13 September 2017), the Meeting of the Parties adopted [decision VI/8i on compliance by Slovakia with its obligations under the Convention](#).

During the intersessional period from 2017 to 2021, the Compliance Committee reviewed the implementation of decision VI/8i with the participation of Slovakia, the communicants and observers.

The Compliance Committee reported to the Meeting of the Parties, at its seventh session (Geneva, 18-21 September 2021) on the progress made by Slovakia to implement the recommendations in decision VI/8i (see below).

## V. Compliance Committee Reports

- Aarhus Convention: Report of the Compliance Committee to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention on compliance by Slovakia [ENG FRE RUS](#)

Summary: In its report, the Committee reviewed the implementation of the recommendations in paragraph 2 of [decision VI/8i on compliance by Slovakia with its obligations under the Convention](#) and in particular whether the Party concerned had taken the necessary legislative, regulatory and administrative measures and practical arrangements to ensure that, when providing access to nuclear-related information within the scope of article 2 (3) of the Convention, any grounds for refusal under article 4 (4) of the Convention are interpreted in a restrictive way and taking into account the public interest served by disclosure and whether the information requested relates to emissions into the environment.

In its report, the Committee concluded that as a result of a number of amendments to its national legal framework, the Party concerned had addressed its request to put in place a clear and transparent legal framework, which requires that each request for information, including nuclear-related information, shall be assessed on an individual basis and that any ground for refusal shall be interpreted in a restrictive manner, taking into account both the public interest served by disclosure of environmental information as well as whether it relates to emissions in the environment.

Accordingly, the Committee found that the Party concerned has met the requirements of paragraph 2 of decision VI/8i.

## VI. Analytical Studies

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- Study on access to justice in information cases, 2021 [ENG](#)