

# Aarhus Convention in Belarus – implementation issues and perspectives

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# The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

together with the relevant rules of national law is the main tool for the Republic of Belarus for ensuring transparency and involvement of all stakeholders in decision-making on issues related to environment.

- **2008** – article 74 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “About Environmental protection” and relevant regulations (access to environmental information)
- **2016** – article 15-2 of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “About Environmental protection” and relevant regulations (public participation in decision making)

## Causes:

- own initiative of the country on implementation of the Aarhus Convention
- practice
- communications and submission to the Compliance Committee

# future activities

- Enhancement of legislation and practice
- development of environmental information portal
- widening of network of the Aarhus centers

# the Aarhus center of the Republic of Belarus

the Aarhus center of the Republic of Belarus was created at the **30th of December 2005** with the aim to facilitate the implementation of the Aarhus Convention provisions in frames of the Joint project of **the Ministry of Natural Recourses and Environmental Protection of Belarus and the OSCE office in Minsk**

## **the Aarhus Center in Minsk is:**

- a platform for co-operation on environmental issues
- a mediator in settlement of disputes related to participation in decision-making in environmental matters
- the organization that can help to find answers to the difficult questions in the field of environmental information

**The participation of the Aarhus Centre in public discussions in the framework of the Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed economic activity – an example of cooperation with all stakeholders: the public, customer of the proposed activity, project organization, local executive and administrative authority, scientists, the media**





## **the Aarhus center of the Republic of Belarus**

- takes part in the preparation of the legislation
- within its competence provides consultations for both the public and for public authorities and business structures
- promotes adherence to the PRTR Protocol and Amendment on GMOs
- participates in the activities of the governing bodies of the Aarhus Convention, the OSCE and other international organizations
- etc.

Thank you for attention!