

Statement of OEKOBÜERO – Alliance of the Austrian Environmental Movement on the behalf of the European ECO Forum regarding item 7(b): Draft decision VII/8e concerning compliance by Czechia

7th Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, we welcome the Committee's report concerning the implementation of decision VI/8e in the last intersessional period as well as the Committee's efforts and those of the secretariat during that period, which we consider were clear capacity building measures, so as to help Czechia implement paragraphs 3 and 6 of decision VI/8e. We note in this regard that the Committee in paras. 52, 53, 54 of its report states that it stands ready to answer and questions, provide further detailed written advice or undertake a mission, as Mr. Ebbesson mentioned today and also at the start of this MOP.

We regret however, that despite these facilitative outreach efforts that not only has Czechia failed to meet the requirements of that decision, but also has failed to make any progress towards this implementation. It has also notably failed to engage with the Committee.

Thus we also welcome the conditional caution as expressed in paragraph 3 of decision VII/8e and indeed hope that this will serve as a wake-up call to the Party concerned that action is needed. Now.

We also welcome the findings on our case ACCC/2016/143, which are also part of draft decision VII/8e. We thank the Compliance Committee and the secretariat as regards the excellent work and analysis that supported these findings and hope that this part of decision VI/8e will also be addressed and implemented as a matter of urgency by the Party concerned.