

Ombudsman intervention furthers the ecologically favorable decision concerning water outlets from Sevan

On June 15, 2012 the Armenian Parliament adopted the package of law amendments concerning Lake Sevan presented by the Armenian Government which provides for increase in water outlets from Lake Sevan up to 320 million cubic meters annually instead of limited 170 million. Meetings with environmental NGO organized by the Ombudsman staff clearly showed that the decision of increase in water outlets was made with serious procedural violations as well as violation of Aarhus Convention provisions.

Consequently relevant Ministries and state bodies were regularly publicly informed by the Ombudsman about the procedural violations taken place and the need for public hearings about the size of water outlets and their possible adverse impact on the environment and Sevan in particular.

As a follow up of the subject yesterday Government of Armenia during its session reduced the size of water outlets from Sevan to 204 from previously planned 320 million cubic meters.

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