

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
Fourth session
Chisinau, 29 June–1 July 2011

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

Friday, 1 July 2011

ITEM 10 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

THEMATIC SESSION: “THE ROLE OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION IN PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Provisional Programme

Chairman of the High-Level thematic panel:
Mr Gheorghe Salaru, Minister of Environment, Republic of Moldova

Assisted by Mr. Jan Dusik, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties

Format of sessions:

The panellists will be invited to make a short opening statement, after which the debate will be opened to the floor. During the debate, panellists will have the opportunity to react to statements of their fellow panellists and to respond to statements or questions from the floor. To allow for more time for discussion, the number of panellists and the time for their opening statements will be limited.

10:00 – 10:30 Opening

Welcome by Mr. Mihai Ghimpu, Former President a.i. of the Republic of Moldova, Parliamentary Deputy, the founder of the Alliance for European Integration of the Republic of Moldova.

A message from UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon to be delivered by Mr. Ján Kubiš, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

10:30 – 11:30 High-level thematic session 1: Advancing sustainable development in the UNECE region: a success story or a missed opportunity for the Aarhus Convention?

The session is expected to take stock of successes and failures in implementing the Convention to date in order to create a snapshot which can guide future action towards full implementation.

Invited speakers-panellists (5 minutes per statement):

- Mr Raimonds Vejonis, Minister of Environment, Latvia
- Mr. Philippe Henry, Minister of Environment, Land-use planning and Mobility, Belgium, Walloon region

- Mr. Simon Papyan, First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection (Armenia)
- Ms. Desiree Schweitzer, Deputy Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Ms. Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Director, REC CEE

Statements from the floor and discussion (35 minutes)

11:30 – 11:50 Coffee break

11:50 – 12:50 **High level thematic session 2: The Aarhus Convention as an inspiration for promoting Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration** (including consideration of the draft Chisinau Declaration, the latter to be continued under the next item of the provisional agenda)

The session is expected to send a strong message to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), offering the region's experience within the framework of the Aarhus Convention as an inspiration for delivery on Principle 10 beyond the UNECE region. The session is also expected to consider the draft Chisinau Declaration (the latter to be continued under item XX of the provisional agenda)

Invited speakers-panellists (5 minutes per statement):

- Mr. Mladen Zirojević, Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Mr. Zoltan Illes, Secretary of State (Hungary)
- Mr. Brice Lalonde, Executive Coordinator of Rio+20, UNCSD
- Mr Jeremy Wates, Secretary-General of EEB, European Eco-forum, and the former Secretary of the Aarhus Convention

Statements from the floor and discussion (35 minutes – to be continued under the next agenda item)

12.50-13.00 Concluding remarks by the Chairman