

THIRTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION

Held before the 18th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

Sunday, 29 June 2014

Maastricht, the Netherlands

REPORT OF THE MEETING ¹

A. Attendance

Bureau members: Mr. Jit Peters (Netherlands, Chair), Ms. Loredana Dall’Ora (Italy, Vice-Chair), Mr. Ivan Narkevitch (Belarus, Vice-Chair), Mr. Lukas Pokorny (Czech Republic), Mr. Thomas Legoupil (France), Mr. Jean-François Brakeland (European Union).

Observers: Mr. Jeremy Wates (NGO observer, European Environmental Bureau representing European ECO Forum), Mr. Edwin Koning (Netherlands, Assistant to the Chair).

Apologies: Ms. Gordana Petkovic (Serbia).

B. Opening and adoption of agenda

1. Chair opened the meeting and outlined its main objectives: (a) to exchange views on the leadership for task forces and areas of work in the next intersessional period as well as on the new Bureau membership; (b) to discuss draft decisions to be submitted to the 18th meeting of the Convention’s Working Group of the Parties (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 29 June 2014) and (c) discuss any other items in preparation for the fifth ordinary session of the Convention’s Meeting of the Parties (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 30 June-2 July 2014).

2. The Bureau adopted provisional agenda of the meeting.

C. Leadership for task forces and areas of work

3. The Chair, the members of the Bureau and the secretariat exchanged relevant information on the leadership of task forces and work areas. The secretariat reported that only Task Force on public participation in decision-making is lacking a candidate for the Chair.

D. Bureau membership

4. The Chair, the members of the Bureau and the secretariat exchanged relevant information in relation to potential candidates for the Bureau membership and the Chair for the next intersessional period.

5. The Bureau also exchanged relevant information in relation to candidates for the membership of the Compliance Committee.

E. Draft decisions

6. The Chair, the members of the Bureau and the secretariat exchanged relevant information with regard to draft decisions to be considered by the Working Group at its 18th meeting.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

7. The Bureau supported the proposal of the Chair that both the Working Group and the Meeting of the Parties should focus the discussion only on the bracketed text of decisions that have been previously already considered by the Working Group.

F. Other business

8. The Bureau agreed that it will bring to the attention of the Meeting of the Parties the letter of the representatives of major groups and stakeholders of civil society registered to participate in the 12th session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals², as this practice undermines seriously the Parties' efforts to promote the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums and also sets a very disturbing precedent for other forums.

G. Closing

9. The Chair thanked the Bureau for constructive work throughout this intersessional period and the secretariat for its support and closed the meeting.

² The letter is available at
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop5/Documents/Open_Letter_to_co-chairs_and_all_the_member_states_of_the_OWG_on_SDGs_16.6.2014.pdf