

Economic Commission for Europe
Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters

Working Group of the Parties

Twenty-second meeting

Geneva, 19-21 June 2018

Items 9-11 of the provisional agenda:

**Special Segment on the Anniversary of the
adoption of the Aarhus Convention**

Special Segment¹

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION

to be held on Wednesday, 20 June 2018, from 11.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Provisional programme

I. Opening of the special segment

Timing: 11.30–12 noon

Welcome and opening

Mr. Marco Keiner
Director, UNECE Environment Division

Key note statement

Ms. Martine Rohn-Brossard
Deputy Head of International Affairs Division / Head of Europe, Trade
and Development Section, Federal Office for the Environment,
Switzerland

Key note statement

Ms. Maria Kolesnikova
MoveGreen Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Video about the Aarhus Convention

¹ This document was not formally edited.

II. Aarhus Storytelling

Timing: 12–1 p.m. and 3.30–4.30 p.m.

Moderator

Ms. Eva Juul Jensen

Member of the host country secretariat of the fourth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference during the adoption of the Aarhus Convention; Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Food, Denmark

During this session, the Working Group will hear testimonies by former and present Chairs of different bodies of the Aarhus Convention, representatives of Governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, followed by a general debate.

(i) Setting the Scene

Timing: 12.00–12.10 p.m.

- **Ms. Eva Juul Jensen**, Moderator
Introduction to the session
- **Mr. Massimo Cozzone**, Senior Officer, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy
Key messages from the Rome Anniversary Event

(ii) Stories Part I – Convention’s Early Days and Evolution

Timing: 12.10–1 p.m.

Invited speakers will make short input statements inspiring other delegates to share “Aarhus stories” from the floor:

- **Mr. Jit Peters**
Member of the delegation of the Netherlands participated in negotiations on the Aarhus Convention; Chair of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties
- **Mr. Jerzy Jendroška**
Vice-chair of the negotiations on the Aarhus Convention (1996-1998); current member of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee; participating expert in negotiations on the regional agreement on Principle 10 in the Latin America and the Caribbean
- **Mr. Jonas Ebbesson**
Participating expert in negotiations on Aarhus Convention compliance mechanism (2001-2002) and Chair of the Compliance Committee (2011-present)
- **Mr. Jeremy Wates**
Former Secretary to the Aarhus Convention (1999-2010) and Secretary General of EEB

Open microphone – general discussion

Networking event

Timing: 2–3.15 p.m.²

A networking event aims at matching countries capacity-building needs with available expertise in other countries and partner organizations with the objective to facilitate networking among countries, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. It will focus on several themes based on the outcomes of capacity-building needs and activities. During this session, participants will have the opportunity to move between the meeting areas of the selected themes. The programme of the networking event is available from: <https://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp22.html>

(iii) Stories Part II – Convention’s Implementation in the Region and its Global Significance

Timing: 3.30–4.30 p.m.

Invited speakers will make short input statements inspiring other delegates to share “Aarhus stories” from the floor:

- **Mr. Jan Dusik**
Chair of the 4th session of the Meeting of the Parties (Chisinau, 2011)
- **Mr. Etienne Ballan**
Former Chair of the thematic session on public participation in international forums
- **Mr. Luc Lavrysen**
Judge, Belgian Constitutional Court; the EU Forum of Judges for the Environment
- **Mr. Andriy Andrushevych**
Society and Environment NGO, on behalf of the European ECO Forum

Open microphone – general discussion

III. Youth, Aarhus and the Sustainable Development Goals

Timing: 4.30–5.45 p.m.

The session aims to discuss how young people consider Aarhus (public) rights help them to create a sustainable future. The session will involve youth, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. It will be organized in the format of a panel discussion, followed by a general debate.

Facilitator **Ms. Dafina Peci**
Secretary General, National Youth Congress of Albania

Opening **Mr. John Knox**
Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment (video message)

² Lunch break from 1 to 2 p.m.

Panellists

- **Mr. Martijn Visser**
Dutch Youth Delegate on Sustainable Development to the United Nations
- **Mr. Ikrom Mamadov**
Director of the Youth Group for the Protection of the Environment in Khujand, Tajikistan / Aarhus Centre Khujand
- **Ms. Liliya Lyubomudrova**
U-report Ukraine / Adolescent Development Officer at UNICEF Ukraine

Open microphone – general discussion

IV. Takeaways from Special Segment - Reflections on Discussions

Timing: 5.45–5.55 p.m.

- **Mr. Alistair McGlone**
Member of the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland participated in negotiations on the Aarhus Convention; former member of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee; former Chair of the Compliance Committee of the Protocol on PRTRs.
- **Ms. Rebecca Freitag**
German UN Youth Delegate on Sustainable Development

V. Closing

Timing: 5.55–6.00 p.m.
