

## AARHUS STORYTELLING STATEMENT

I am a relative newcomer. My practical experience with Convention began in 2014 with casework and soon thereafter I joined the ECO Forum Team on compliance, with my absolutely brilliant colleagues Mr. Andriy Andrusevych and Mr. Yves Lador.

I attended my first ACCC meetings in Geneva as an observer, with if I may say so, rather little guidance as to what to expect. My voice was certainly quavering for my first intervention, I remember precisely, on which case, on which issues and provisions of the Convention, who was curator, and the thoughtful nodding by one particular committee member which comforted me that I was perhaps not merely spouting off utter nonsense after all. I will never forget that.

But what struck me also that day and in the years since is a certain sense of collegiality, of belonging to an Aarhus community, even in later tense situations, in tough negotiations with Parties with interests very much different than those of the ECO Forum.

And I cannot end without giving also a special nod to my terrific co-topic leader for Aarhus in Justice and Environment, Mr. Csaba Kiss. Together with our Aarhus team we've continued J&E's more than decade-long efforts to promote and support implementation of the Convention, and working with you has not just been so effective, but loads of fun.

Because behind all the ambitious goals, the formalities, the procedures, the hard work, so often it comes down to the people with whom you work. And I have been privileged to work with the very best.