

## Aarhus Convention – extraordinary Meeting of the Parties, 24 June 2022

### European ECO Forum reaction to appointment of Special Rapporteur

**Francesca Carlsson, European Environmental Bureau**

The European ECO Forum is delighted and truly welcomes that a new Special Rapporteur has been elected. We are also surprised – happily surprised – by how quickly this outcome was reached. As mentioned yesterday and today, this is a historical moment that we are very proud of.

Four highly qualified and excellent candidates were nominated, each with distinguishing expertise. We congratulate Mr Forst for being the first special rapporteur under the Aarhus Convention. We believe that Mr Forst's mandate has the strongest legitimacy possible thanks to the Parties' success in reaching consensus for his election. So we also congratulate the Parties for having succeeded with this.

NGOs look forward to engaging and cooperating with Mr Forst in this new role, and we urge all Parties and the Convention bodies to do the same, ensuring that the Rapid Response Mechanism is ambitious and effective. Environmental defenders, our colleagues, face big challenges to their work, livelihoods, and lives and we look towards you, Mr Forst, to support them.



**European Environmental Bureau**

• Rue des Deux Églises 14-16, 1000 Brussels, Belgium • ☎ +32 228 91090 • [eeb@eeb.org](mailto:eeb@eeb.org) • [www.eeb.org](http://www.eeb.org)

*International non-profit association • Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL) • EC register for interest representatives:  
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