

Seventy-ninth meeting of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (Geneva, 13-16 June 2023)

Open session to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Aarhus Convention's adoption 11.30-12.30 CET, 13 June 2023, Salle IX

Background:

As indicated in its [meeting agenda](#), in celebration of this anniversary, the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee will hold an open session, on Tuesday, 13 June 2023, 11:30-12:30 CET, on the first day of its seventy-ninth meeting (Geneva, 13-16 June 2023), to highlight the role the Committee has played in furthering the implementation of the Convention and in serving as an inspiration for other international compliance mechanisms.

Format:

The open session will be in English and will take the following format:

- Welcome by Mr. Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE
- Opening statement by Chair of the Committee
- Short interventions by Parties, communicants and observers from across the Aarhus region
- Brief views from other international compliance mechanisms
- Brief remarks by the former Secretary to Aarhus Convention
- Short reflections by former members of the Compliance Committee
- Closing remarks by the Chair of the Compliance Committee

Proposed order of speakers:

- Welcome by Mr. Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE
- Opening statement by Ms. Áine Ryall, Chair of the Compliance Committee
- Short interventions by Parties, communicants and observers from across the Aarhus region:
 - **Parties (in alphabetical order):**
 - Armenia (Ms. Mari Chakryan, national focal point)
 - European Union (Ms. Zsuzsanna Belenyessy, national focal point)
 - Ireland (Mr. Brendan Keenan, acting national focal point)
 - Kazakhstan (Mr. Akzan Shiranov, national focal point)
 - Germany (Mr. Matthias Sauer, national focal point – to join after 12.15)
 - **Communicants and observers (in alphabetical order):**
 - Mr. Andriy Andrushevich, Resource & Analysis Center “Society and Environment”, Ukraine
 - Ms. Attracta Uí Bhroin, Irish Environmental Network, Ireland
 - Ms. Carol Day, RSPB, United Kingdom
 - Mr. Ilya Trombitsky, Eco Tiras, Republic of Moldova
 - Mr. Sebastian Bechtel, ClientEarth
 - Ms. Summer Kern, Justice and Environment
 - Ms. Yelyzaveta Aleksyeyeva, Environment-People-Law, Ukraine
 - Mr. Yves Lador, Earthjustice
- Brief views from secretariats of other international compliance mechanisms:
 - Escazú Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee (Mr. Carlos de Miguel, ECLAC)
 - Water and Health Protocol Compliance Committee (Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova, UNECE)
 - Protocol on PRTRs Compliance Committee (Ms. Ella Behlyarova, UNECE)
- Brief remarks by the former Secretary to Aarhus Convention:
 - Mr. Jeremy Wates, Secretary to Aarhus Convention (1999-2010)
- Short reflections by former members of the Compliance Committee:
 - Mr. Vadim Nee (Committee member 2002-2011)
 - Mr. Pavel Černý (Committee member 2008-2017)
 - Mr. Jonas Ebbesson (Committee member 2005-2021, Chair 2011-2021)
- Closing remarks by the Chair of the Compliance Committee