

Agenda no. 5d: Capacity Building
27th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention
Geneva, 26-28 June 2023

Thank you Chair, and thank you, Ella, for the clarification that the recent capacity building event in Uzbekistan was a unique round table, not organized by the UNECE, and that it was only a part of a larger event that concerned broader issues.

On the behalf of the European ECO Forum as a whole, I wish to say that, regardless of the fact that Uzbekistan has not joined the Aarhus family in the past, we warmly welcome any and all steps to join us now, and we wish to support that.

To this end, we were very pleased that Mr. Martin Skalsky, from the NGO Arnika in Czechia, was able to take part in the roundtable in Uzbekistan and provide the NGO perspective on the behalf of the European ECO Forum on the many benefits that are part and parcel of being a Party to the Aarhus Convention.

We thank Uzbekistan very much for hosting this excellent event, and for creating this space for NGOs to provide their expertise. We stand ready to provide further assistance.