



EEB

European
Environmental
Bureau

Aarhus 27th WGP, June 2023

Thematic Session

public participation in trade



Who are we?

The EEB is **Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations** – and the only one to work on such a broad range of issues.

Our 180 members from 38 countries have more than 30 million individual supporters.

We have over 40 years of EU environmental policy expertise.

ECO Forum

The EEB coordinates the Aarhus ECO Forum at the Aarhus Convention.

Members from all Aarhus parties.
Participating in all Aarhus convention constellations.



Article 3(7)

Procedural vs Substantive

- Each Party shall promote the application of the principles of this Convention in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organizations in matters relating to the environment.



The Problem

Trade Concerns	Environmental Concerns
Economic Growth	Import of banned substances
Europe export of goods	Impact on Biodiversity
Reducing tariffs	Pricing of exhaustible resources
Reducing non-tariff barriers	CO2 transport emissions
Increase competition	Tariff reductions environmental goods
Consumer choice	Risk of ISDS





Integrating Environment - Trade

Participation avenues

- Ministerial contacts → more interlinkages
- Sustainability Impact Assessments → early
- Civil Society Dialogues → transparency
- Domestic Advisory Groups → formal power
- Protests → can be avoided



Difference between Regions

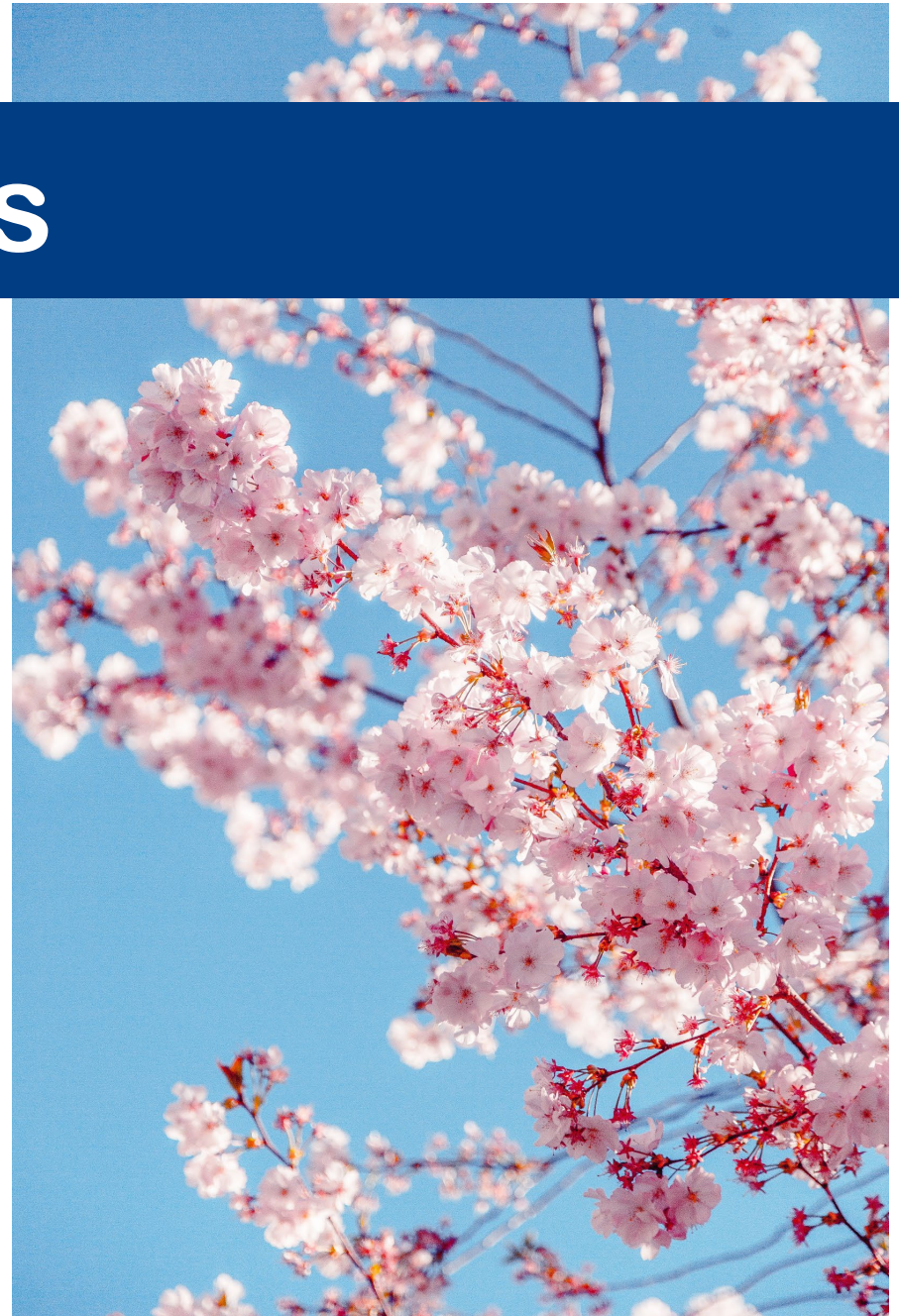
- Strategic Impact Assessments
- Resources of Ministries
- Capacity of Civil Society
- Existing Trade Agreements
- Transparency



Recommendations

1. **WTO:** Speed up of progress
2. **UN:** States need to argue Aarhus principles
3. **UNECE:** Create more interlinkages
4. **EU:** Environmental conditionalities for agreements
5. **EU:** trade expert group, early SIAs
6. **National:** CSO involvement in developing trade positions
7. **National:** Capacity building

Beyond Aarhus: environmental rights = human rights





Thank you for your attention



- Frederik Hafen
- EEB