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)

• 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

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