

NGO Side Event at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

Needs and Ways of Financing Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health – linking with EU Policy and the Aarhus Convention

Thursday, 25 November 2010

Venue: Human Rights Hall, Bucharest, Romania

13:15 till 14:45



Scope and Aim of this Side Event

The concept note "Access to information and public participation under the Protocol on Water and Health", resulting from the workshop on public participation in Bucharest on 15 and 16 June 2010, identifies needs, obligations, best practices and challenges in the area of capacity building, access to information and public participation under the PWH.

This event will highlight lessons learned and similar problem analyses in these areas from other processes, in particular the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) for the EECCA region, the European Union's Water Framework Directive, and the Aarhus Convention's new Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making. Furthermore other questions will be discussed, such as what is the added value of capacity building and PP, how is it financed, and can synergies be created between PWH and these other processes.

The speakers will address the benefits of the river-basin approach in the target setting process under the PWH. They will also share lessons learned from the National Policy Dialogues under the EUWI process, and the benefits of public participation in these dialogues.

The event will result in recommendations to the Meeting of Parties of the PWH.

Welcome and Introduction

Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director WECF, Key aspects of the Concept Note: capacity building, access to information, public participation

Invited Contributions

Carola Bjorklund, Chair of the ad hoc facilitating mechanism under the PWH (t.b.c.)

Phil Kearney, Chair of the task force on Public Participation in decision making of the Aarhus Convention

Representatives of Governments

Non governmental organisations and Regional Environment Centers:

MAMA-86 Ukraine, Eco-Tiras Moldova, AWHHE Armenia

European Commission (t.b.c.)

Discussion with participants on recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties to the PWH

Closing

Organiser: Women in Europe for Common Future (WECF) and European ECO-Forum

Simultaneous translation between English and Russian will be provided

Lunch will be served



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