

**Economic Commission for Europe**

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on  
Access to Information, Public Participation  
in Decision-making and Access to Justice  
in Environmental Matters

**Working Group of the Parties****Twenty-first meeting**

Geneva, 4-6 April 2017

Item 7 of the provisional agenda:

**Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums**

**Promotion of the principles of the Convention on Access to Information, Public  
Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters  
(Aarhus Convention) in international forums<sup>1</sup>**

**Provisional programme for the thematic session**

to be held on Wednesday, 5 April 2017, from 10.00 to 13.00

**Introduction**

The thematic session on the promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums will include: (a) panel presentations and round table discussion on the international decision-making on environment and health matters and (b) discussion on the draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums. In addition, the Chair will report on the progress made with regard to items discussed at the previous thematic session held at the twentieth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (15-17 June 2016). This includes: (a) climate-related processes with the focus on lessons learnt from the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); (b) stakeholder engagement in the United Nations Environment Assembly and the UNEP access to information policies; (c) SDGs-related processes.

**I. Promotion of the Convention's principles in international decision-making on environment and health matters**

*Timing: 10-11.20 a.m.*

*Chair: Mr Etienne Ballan, Chair of the thematic session*

This item will be organized in the format of a panel presentation and round-table discussion. The Chair will also present the results of a survey circulated among the Aarhus focal points to collect information on the involvement of the public in decision-making in the context of the environment and health process.

The Working Group will consider the promotion of the Convention's principles in international decision-making on environment and health matters, including:

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<sup>1</sup> This document was not formally edited.

- a) How Aarhus Parties are involving public in preparing documents for the preparatory meetings and for the upcoming sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health itself (Ostrava, Czechia, 13-15 June 2017).
- b) How Aarhus Parties facilitate participation of the public in the related meetings.
- c) How the host country for the upcoming Ministerial Conference promotes the Convention's principles in relation to the organization of the Conference.
- d) Whether rules of procedures and practices for the Environment and Health Ministerial Conferences and for the preparatory bodies (e.g. Task Force on Environment and Health) are in line with the Almaty Guidelines.
- e) How the process' secretariat facilitates public participation through logistics or other arrangements.

*Panellists:*

- Mr Jan Brojac, Ministry of Environment of Czechia
- Dr Elizabet Paunovic, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health
- Ms Edlira Dersha, Ministry of Environment of Albania
- Ms Anke Stock, European ECO Forum

**Documentation**

- a) Results of the survey for Parties and stakeholders (AC/WGP-21/Inf.5).
- b) Note on the rules of procedure under the European Environment and Health Process (AC/WGP-21/Inf.6).
- c) Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2015-2017 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/3)
- d) Promoting the application of the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums (Almaty Guidelines; ECE/MP.PP/2005/2/Add.5).

Additional information and documentation regarding the European Environment and Health Process is available from: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/pages/european-environment-and-health-process-ehp>.

**II. Update on items considered at the previous thematic session**

*Timing: 11.20 – 11.50*

The Chair will update participants on the promotion of the Convention principles in international forums with the focus being on:

- a) lessons learnt from the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- b) stakeholder engagement in the United Nations Environment Assembly and the UNEP access to information policies
- c) the promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention throughout developing, implementing and monitoring implementation of SDGs

Written statements on the above items are available online through the meeting's webpage: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp21.html#/>

### **III. Concluding remarks by the Chair of the thematic session**

*Timing: 11:50 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

The Chair of the thematic session will present his concluding remarks.

### **IV. Draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums**

*Timing: 12.00 – 1 p.m.*

*Chair: Ms Maia Bitadze, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention*

- a) Discussion on the draft decision
- b) Conclusions by the Chair

#### **Documentation:**

Draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/L.4)

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