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## Anniversary event to celebrate 20 years of the Aarhus Convention 15-16 May 2018, Rome

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

v. 16 May 2018

The Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea is pleased to invite you to celebrate the 20-year anniversary of the adoption of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters — also known as Aarhus Convention. The Anniversary Event will take place from 15 to 16 May 2018 at the premises of Chiostro del Bramante in Rome.

The event, organized by Italy in cooperation with the secretariat of the UNECE Aarhus Convention and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), will provide a forum where the main achievements and lessons learned in the last 20 years as well as future challenges and objectives of the Convention's implementation will be discussed among some key past and present players, including representatives of governmental authorities, academic institutions, NGOs, business and other stakeholders.

#### **15 May (Day 1)**

- **12.30 – 14.00 Registration**
- **13.00 – 14.00 Light lunch**

**14.00 – 14.15**

#### **Opening and setting the stage**

- Welcome speech by Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director General, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy
- Statement by Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECE
- Introductory video

**14.15 – 15.30**

#### **Panel 1: The evolution of the Aarhus Convention and setting a vision for the future**

Facilitator: Prof. Attila Tanzi, Chair of the Expert Group on Public Participation in International Fora preparing the Almaty Guidelines (2004-2005)

- Mr. Francesco La Camera (Italy), Negotiator of the Convention and Chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Signatories (Dubrovnik, 2000)
- Mr. Jerzy Jendroška, Vice-chair of the negotiations on the UNECE Aarhus Convention (1996-1998)
- Mr. Jan Dusik (Czech Republic), Chair of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Meeting of the Parties (Chisinau, 2011)
- Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
- Mr. Yves Lador, Earthjustice

*Q&A, General discussion*

**15.30 – 16.00 Coffee-break**

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**16.00 – 17.30**

**Panel 2: The challenges ahead: critical issues and proposals**

Facilitator: Prof. Massimiliano Montini (Siena University, Italy)

- Mr. Jeremy Wates, Secretary General of European Environmental Bureau and former Secretary to the Aarhus Convention (1999-2010)
- Mr. Jonas Ebbesson, Chair of the Compliance Committee (2011-present), participated in negotiations on compliance mechanism (2001-2002)
- Ms. Laura Michel, Chair of the thematic session on promoting the Convention's principles in international forums
- Ms. Anke Stock, Women Engage for a Common Future
- Mr. Ludwig Kramer, ClientEarth

*Q&A, General discussion and closing remarks*

**18.00 – 19.00 Social event**

**20:00 Welcome dinner with artistic performance**

offered by the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea

**16 May (Day II)**

**9.30 – 12.30**

**Panel 3: Snapshot of experiences from the region**

Facilitator: Mr. Jeremy Wates, European Environmental Bureau

- Ms. Maryna Shymkus, Ukraine, member of the Bureau of the Aarhus Convention
- Ms. Esra Buttanri, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- Mr. Vadim Ni, Ecoforum of NGOs of Kazakhstan, former member of the Compliance Committee

**10.30 – 11.00** *Coffee break*

- Ms. Magda Toth Nagy, former Public Participation Programme Coordinator, REC for Central and Eastern Europe
- Ms. Mara Silina, Co-Chair of the European ECO Forum
- Ms. Sonja Popovic, Aarhus Center for South and East Serbia in Nis
- Ms. Francesca Rocchi, Vice President of Coalizione Clima Italia

*Q&A, General discussion and closing remarks*

**12.30 – 13.00**

**Conclusions and closure of the event**

**13.00 – 14.00** *Light lunch*

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