Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and to the Protocol on PRTRs,
Budva, Montenegro

Agenda item 7 (c) – Capacity-building: statement by the European ECO Forum

The Aarhus Convention grants certain rights, therefore its proper implementation presupposes capacity building in order that its beneficiaries are able to use it. For this reason, the introduction of obligatory capacity building activities should be considered. In order to have a lasting impact, also a continuous capacity building is to be established. There have been a number of capacity building initiatives to date. These should be inventoried together with an up-to-date database of ongoing and upcoming capacity building efforts, to see gaps and redundancies. After the completion of capacity building activities, there is a need to evaluate their efficiency, therefore those who benefited from such activities should be held accountable for what they were involved into.

Capacity building activities should not only target the CEE, EECCA and SEE regions.

A specific feature of such capacity building activities is that it is closely linked with issues of good governance. Topics to be covered by capacity building should include, inter alia, the issue of defending the defenders and synergies with other MEAs.

In terms of the form of capacity building, an online course or at least online distribution of the curricula is to be considered, putting emphasis on the existing Clearinghouse mechanism.