

MAASTRICHT RECOMMENDATIONS' IMPLEMENTATION PROSPECTS -ROMANIA -

*The 7th meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making
Geneva, 15-16 December 2016*

MAASTRICHT RECOMMENDATIONS

At its fifth meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, which was held in Maastricht, Netherlands on 30 June to 1 July 2014 it was established a set of recommendations on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters

The Maastricht Recommendations are based on existing good practice, and are intended as a practical tool to improve the implementation of the Convention's provisions on public participation in decision-making to be used in two key ways:

- (a) To assist Parties when designing their legal framework on public participation in environmental decision-making under the Convention;
- (b) To assist public officials on a day-to-day basis when designing and carrying out public participation procedures on environmental decision-making under the Convention.

In Romania:

The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, signed in Aarhus on 25 June 1998 (the Aarhus Convention) was ratified by Romania by Law no. 86/2000.

The central public authority responsible for implementing the Aarhus Convention is Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests.

The Maastricht Recommendations were published in English on the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests internet page,

link: . <http://www.mmediu.ro/categorie/conventie-aarhus/136> .

In the next future, these recommendations will be translated and posted on the website of the competent environmental authorities at central and local level.

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Maastricht Recommendations on Promoting Effective Public Participation in Decision-making in Environmental Matters

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Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests intend to organize the roundtable with representatives of other Romanian central authorities in order to present the views of the Committee concerning the grounds for refusing access to environmental information.

Until now, could not be organized this roundtable, because our intention is to present materials related to public participation and to cases in which a public authority may refuse dissemination of environmental information.

The materials will be developed by Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPER) and will be disseminate in the session initial training in the framework of the project "Training of staff of competent environmental authorities on environmental impact assessment and environmental assessment for 2014-2020" stage 2.

Session Initial training will last 2 days the representatives of Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPERS) will present on the following topics: The cumulative impact (day 1) Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to justice in environmental matters (day 2).

The target group is: nucleus of network of experts in the application of European legislation on environmental impact assessment and environmental assessment, staff of the Environment authorities (MMA, NEPA), the three focal points on the Aarhus Convention: Access to Information and Public Participation in Decision -making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

We mention that the nucleus of network of experts is constituted as a result of project implementation "Training of staff of competent environmental authorities on environmental impact assessment and environmental assessment for 2014-2020" - stage 1 of representatives from the environmental authorities. , resulting particularly appreciated by EC (DG Environment). The act of establishing this body of experts is particularly appreciated by EC (DG Environment)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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