



## **JOINT MEETING ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISION-MAKING: FOCUS ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT<sup>1</sup>**

**Under the auspices of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and the Bureau under the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)**

**29–30 October 2012, Salle VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

### **PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

Chairs: Mr. Philip Kearney, Chair of the Aarhus Convention's Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making  
Mr. Matthias Sauer, Chair of the Bureau of the Espoo Convention for Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) matters

#### **DAY I, Monday, 29 October**

The first day of the joint meeting will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss and provide their input on the draft recommendations that are currently being prepared under each of the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on SEA to improve the implementation of their respective provisions on public participation in environmental and strategic decision-making.

#### **Morning session: 10.00-13.00**

#### **Consultation on the Aarhus Convention's draft Recommendations on Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making**

*Chair: Mr. Philip Kearney*

*Consultant: Mr. Jerzy Jendroska*

Participants will be invited to provide their comments on the second draft of the Recommendations on Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making being prepared under the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making (TF PPDm) of the Aarhus Convention, in consultation with, inter alia, the Bureau and the secretariat of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA. The participants are expected to address both the structure and the contents of the document. Participants will also be given the opportunity to provide more detailed comments in writing prior to and after the event.

#### **Lunch: 13.00-15.00**

---

<sup>1</sup> Information on the meeting will be made available on this webpage in due course:  
[www.unece.org/pp\\_in\\_strategic\\_dm](http://www.unece.org/pp_in_strategic_dm)

**Afternoon session: 15.00-18.00**

**Consultation on the SEA Protocol's draft Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation in Strategic Decision-making**

*Chair: Mr. Matthias Sauer*

*Introductory presentation by the consultant Ms. Riki Therivel*

Participants will be invited to comment on the draft Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation in Strategic Decision-making being prepared under the auspices of the Espoo/SEA Bureau in consultation with, inter alia, the TF PPDM and the Aarhus Convention secretariat. The participants are expected to address both the structure and the contents of the document. They will also be given opportunity to provide more detailed comments in writing prior to and after the event.

**DAY 2, Tuesday, 30 October**

The second day of the meeting will begin by examining obstacles and challenges to effective public participation in strategic decision-making, as well as good practices and innovative tools to address them. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to discuss key issues of concern for Parties and stakeholders with respect to the implementation of the SEA Protocol and articles 7 and 8 of the Aarhus Convention, and in doing so, contribute to the further development of the draft recommendations discussed on the first day of the meeting.

**Morning session: 9.30-11.30**

**An overview of key challenges to ensuring effective public participation in strategic environmental decision-making**

*Chair: Mr. Matthias Sauer*

In this session, participants will be invited to examine some of the key obstacles and challenges to achieving effective public participation in strategic environmental decision-making, as well as to exchange experiences regarding good practices and innovative tools to address them.

- **SEA and public participation - some strategic thoughts**  
*Mr. Richard Macrory, University College London, United Kingdom*
- **Practical experiences of organizing public participation in SEA in transboundary contexts**  
*Mr. Piotr Otawski, Ministry of Environment, Poland*
- **Main obstacles to effective public participation in strategic environmental decision-making in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**  
*Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov, European ECOForum*
- **Main obstacles to effective public participation in strategic environmental decision-making in the countries of the European Union**  
*Mr. Michael Ewing, European ECOForum*
- **Innovative approaches to public participation in environmental decision-making**  
*Ms. Maria Partidario, International Association for Impact Assessment*

**Morning session: 11.30-12.30**

**Special focus: Public participation in draft legislation**

*Chair: Mr. Philip Kearney*

**Experiences of public participation in the European Commission's Impact Assessment with respect to EU legislation**

*Mr. Georges Kremlis, DG Environment, European Commission*

- **Public participation on Greece's draft bill of biodiversity**  
*Ms. Katerina Skouria and Ms. Evelina Stamouli, Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Greece (by audio-conference)*
- **Public participation regarding Armenia's draft environmental legislation**  
*Mrs. Aida Iskoyan, Ministry for Nature Protection, Armenia*

**Lunch 12.30-14.30**

**Afternoon session: 14.30-17.15**

**Special focus: Public participation in plans, programmes and policies**

*Chairs: Mr. Matthias Sauer and Mr. Philip Kearney*

**Sustainable development**

- Public participation in the era of the green economy  
*Mr. Francesco Le Camera, Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea, Italy*
- Public participation regarding the Eastern Partnership Roadmap, Ukraine  
*Mr. Andriy Andrusevich, Resource & Analysis Center "Society and Environment", Ukraine*

**Energy and climate change**

- Public participation regarding Nordland County Council regional climate plan  
*Mr. Dag Bastholm, Nordland County Council, Norway*
- Public participation in strategic energy-related planning in the United Kingdom  
*Ms. Naomi Luhde-Thompson, Friends of the Earth, United Kingdom*

**Agriculture and food security**

- Public participation regarding Spain's Sustainable Rural Development Programme  
*Ms. Ana Vicente Rangel, Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain*

**Marine protection**

- Public participation in the establishment of Marine Protected Areas  
*Ms. Anne Lettaye, Marine Protected Areas Agency, France*
- Public participation regarding marine-related decision-making in Ireland  
*Ms. Karin Dubsky, Coastwatch, Ireland*

**Sustainable development (continued)**

- France's Grenelle Roundtable and the French Environmental Conference  
*Mr. Tomas Legoupil, Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Territorial Planning, France (by video-conference)*

**Closing session 17.15-17.30**

Closing remarks by the Chairs, Mr. Philip Kearney and Mr. Matthias Sauer

\*\*\*\*\*