

Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Sustainable Infrastructure, Sustainable Tourism, Education for Sustainable Development
5-7 October 2022, Nicosia, Cyprus

SIDE EVENT AGENDA

Environmental governance for transforming our planet – Promoting the Aarhus Convention in the whole of the Mediterranean region

7 October, 13:10 - 14:40

KERYNEIA room – Filoxenia
English-French [Live meeting]

The aim of the side event is to share with the participants the joint efforts in the development of a Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention (Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters), encouraging the accession to and implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Mediterranean countries that are not yet members, showcasing the importance and challenges of the Convention's interlinkages with international institutions and processes towards a multilateral structured approach to accession negotiations, and promoting the engagement of relevant NGOs and civil society organizations. Currently, 12 Mediterranean countries are Parties to the Aarhus Convention (54,5%). The event will also collect inputs that help in the identification of priorities and implications for the Mediterranean countries in applying the Mediterranean Accession Agenda.

Co-Organisers

- Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD)
- House of Representatives of Cyprus
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM)
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)
- Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP)
- UNECE, Aarhus Convention Secretariat
- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN Centre)
- Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

Preliminary Agenda

Chairperson: Prof. Moh Rejdali

Facilitator: Prof. Michael Scoullos

13:10-13:20	<p>Opening/Welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annita Demetriou, President of the House of Representatives of Cyprus - Moh Rejdali, Chairperson of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development COMPSUD
13:20-13:40	<p>The Aarhus Convention and its relevance to the Mediterranean region Mr. Nicholas Bonvoisin, Chief of Section, Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</p> <p>The Flagship Initiative of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) on Environmental Governance Mr. Julien Le Tellier, Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention Secretariat (UNEP/MAP)</p>
13:40-13:55	<p>Overview of the <u>“Foundation Discussion Document (FDD) for the Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention”</u></p> <p>Prof. Evangelos Raftopoulos, Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN Centre)</p>
13:55-14:35	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>The Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention: insights, benefits, opportunities and challenges for acceding states (3-minute interventions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annita Demetriou, MP, House of Representatives, Cyprus • Bruno Coimbra, MP, Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) • Charalabos Theopemptou, MP, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) • Ina Coseru, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova • Alessandra Sensi, Union of the Mediterranean • Galina Georgieva Hristova, European Environment Agency • Patrizia Heidegger, European Environmental Bureau • Representative of the European ECO Forum (<i>tbc</i>) • Dr. Emad Adly, Arab Network for Environment and Development • Raymond Van Ermen, The-EPE <p><i>Interventions welcome from participants</i></p>
14:30-14:40	<p>Wrap-up and Concluding Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Michael Scoullos, COMPSUD Secretary General/WES Team Leader/MIO-ECSDE

Link to the Foundation Discussion Document (FDD) for the Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention and its Summary for Policy Makers:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d9lfb76tc7qce73/AADt24GUP-FwLkl6okzpZ7iAa?dl=0>