

**International ECOs Strategy Meeting
“REINFORCING THE AARHUS CONVENTION”
17-18 December, 2007, Vienna**

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Day 1 – Monday, 17 December 2007

Registration 9.00

9.30 Welcome by John Hontelez

THEME 1: Review of major developments under the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs after MoP-2 (Almaty, 2005) – expectations from the Riga Conference

9.45 Key-note speech from Jeremy Wates and Introduction by Mara Silina on work on Long Term Strategic Planning

Discussion

11.15 Coffee/tea break

11.45 – 13.00 Plenary Discussions on

- PRTR Protocol
- SEA Protocol - PPSD

Lunch: 13.00-14.30

14.30 Session on THEME 1 continues

- GMO-amendment
- Compliance procedures

Purpose:

- understand the practical opportunities/consequences
- understand and comment on the legal process towards entry into force
- prepare ECO Forum comments towards Riga on these themes.

16.00 coffee/tea

THEME 2: IMPLEMENTATION OF AARHUS CONVENTION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

16.30 Guest speaker: Elisabeth Freytag: advantages and challenges of the Convention for the Austrian society (tbc)

17.00 Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in EU countries, presentation by John Hontelez

17.30 Short overview of National Reporting of Governements and about NGO involvement in this reporting, introduced by Serhiy Vyhryst

17.45 – 19.15 exchange of views on progress and bottlenecks with implementation

- general input
- alternative reports: necessity and process

Discussion amongst participants

19.15 – 19.30 Wrap up of the first day

DINNER

Day 2 – Tuesday, 18 December 2007

9.00

ECO-Forum Statement/Declaration (“Vienna Declaration”)

[Feedback from issue groups, general discussion, drafting the Statement/Declaration (using multimedia). This will be a draft Declaration, which should be reviewed once more in the afternoon and then as a draft sent to all Strategy meeting applicants for comments. It should be finalised by a Drafting Group (to be elected at this session)]

Appointment of the Drafting Group.

10.00 Coordinated NGO participation in Riga MoP-3

Discussions on plans before MoP-3 (WGP-9, nominations for ACCC, Workshop on GMOs...), activities prior to MoP-3 (ECO Forum preparatory meeting), and activities at/during MoP-3 (NGO participation in plenary sessions, high-level segment, joint sessions and meetings of the AC subsidiary bodies; side-events, seminars ...)

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 – 12.30 WORKSHOPS

- Access to Justice
- PPIF
- [EIT]
- If necessary others

Lunch: 12.30-14.00

14.00

Planning future work of the ECO Forum Public Participation Campaign

Discussions on how to work and coordinate activities on the national implementation of the AC, facilitate and strengthen information/good practices exchange, involve new people/NGOs in ECO-Forum activities, strategically use the AC compliance review mechanism, organise national/subregional/regional events, promote the AC and its principles in other international forums as well as optimise NGO participation in the official process

15.30 coffee/tea

16.00 – 17.00 (18.00) ADOPTION OF VIENNA DECLARATION.

Informal dinner (place to be defined)