

Fifth Aarhus Workshop

7. September 2021

9.00 till 13.00 (CEST)

Zoom



Fifth Aarhus Workshop

On 1. July 2021, Slovenia took over the EU Council Presidency. Now, there is much to be done to drive forward the green transformation of Europe! This also means that civil society (organisations) must be involved in environmental and climate policy processes, i.e. they must be informed, be able to effectively contribute their own ideas of a climate-neutral Europe and also have the opportunity to take legal action. The Aarhus Convention (AC) adopted by the European Union and its Member States lays the foundations for this. However, citizens and environmental NGOs are still facing **enormous challenges when they want to participate in the European legislative process or want to have environmental decisions reviewed by courts.**

We will discuss the intertwining between human rights, climate laws and the Aarhus Convention in the European Union. This Workshop will be the last opportunity for in-depth discussions on how civil society can truly and effectively engage in European environmental policy before the 7. Meeting of the Parties of the AC.

Registration: You can find the registration form [here](#). Participation is free.

Information: European Implementation of the Aarhus Convention in the Digital Age ([EU-AarKo](#)).

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Programme

8.45	Arrival time	<i>Dipl. Geoökol. Larissa Donges, Project manager at the UfU</i>
9.00	Beginning of the workshop	
9.00	Arrival & technical introduction	Dipl. Geoökol. Larissa Donges, Project Manager at the UfU
9.05	Welcome	Dr Vasilka Sancin, Associate Professor at University of Ljubljana & Director of Centre for International and Business Law
9.10	Introduction of the Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU) & its EU-AarKo pro- ject	Larissa Donges & Kathleen Pauleweit, LLM, Research Associate at the UfU
9.15	Presentation 1 Human Rights & Aarhus Convention in the European Union with subsequent round of questions	Dr Vasilka Sancin
10.00	Presentation 2 Access to Justice for Climate: Landmark Rul- ing by the Federal Constitutional Court & Its Relevance for the Supranational Legal Order with subsequent round of questions	Dr Roda Verheyen, LL.M., Environmental Lawyer of Rechts- anwälte Günther Partnerschaftsge- sellschaft
10.15	5-min. break	
10.20	Keynote Environmental NGO perspective on Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Un- ion regarding Environmental Matters	Mag. Senka Šifkovi Vrbica, Environmental Lawyer at Institute for Spatial Policies (IPoP)

10.30	Presentation 3 Implications of the Amendment to the Aarhus Regulation & EU Climate Law with subsequent round of questions	Sebastian Bechtel, LLM, Environmental Democracy Lawyer at ClientEarth Brussels
10.45	Panel Discussion 1 Expectations on upcoming MOP 7 & EU's Compliance with the Aarhus Convention with subsequent round of discussion	Panelists: Mag. Tanja Pucelj Vidovič, Focal Point for Aarhus Convention at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning Matthias Sauer, Head of Unit of Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conserva- tion and Nuclear Safety & Alistair McGlone, Director at Alistair McGlone and Associates Ltd
11.30	10-min. break	
11.40	Panel Discussion 2 Public Participation & Access to Justice on EU & Member State Level: Is Climate & Envi- ronmental Litigation the Last Resort for Euro- pean Citizens & NGOs to enhance Environ- mental Good Governance in the Human-Rights based European Legal System? with subsequent round of discussion	Panelists: Dr Maša Kovič Dine, Assistant Professor at University of Ljubljana Dr Maria Alexandra de Sousa Aragão, Professor at the University of Coimbra & Aljoša Petek, Environmental Lawyer at PIC - Le- gal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environ- ment
12.25	The way forward	Kathleen Pauleweit
12.40	End of the workshop	
till 13.00	Questions & answers	Workshop Team