Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

2019 Aarhus Centres Annual Meeting
16-17 October 2019, Vienna

Venue
16 October: Alois-Mock-Saal(*), Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, Republic of Austria - Minoritenplatz 8
17 October: room 533, Hofburg, Heldenplatz

(*) Only registered participants will be granted access to the meeting venue. Online registration (https://events.osce.org/aarhus-centres-meeting/registration) is available until Monday, 14 October 2019

AGENDA

Wednesday, 16 October

09:00 - 09:30 Arrival

09:30 - 09:45 Opening

- Ambassador Vuk Žugić, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Mr. Martin Končal, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the OSCE, 2019 OSCE Slovak Chairmanship
- Dr. Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) – video message
- Mr. Peter Sonnenhol, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE

09:45 - 11:00 Session 1: Strengthening the role of Aarhus Centres in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Moderator: Mr. Filippo Crivellaro, Head of Economic and Environmental Department, OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Speakers:

- Ms. Esra Buttanri, Senior Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Ms. Maryna Yanush, Environmental Affairs Officer, Aarhus Convention Secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Ms. Ekaterina Kouznetsova, Head of the General Directorate of Environmental Policy, National Focal Point to Aarhus Convention, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Republic of Belarus

Discussion

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00 Session 2: Best Practices of Aarhus Centres in contributing to the implementation of the Aarhus Convention’s pillars

Moderator: Mr. Ralf Ernst, Deputy Co-ordinator, Head of Environmental Activities, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Speakers:
- Ms. Natalia Baydakova, Head of Strategic Planning Division, National Focal Point to Aarhus Convention, State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry of Kyrgyz Republic
- Mr. Yolbars Kepbanov, Legal Adviser of Aarhus Centre Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- Ms. Narine Solomonyan, Adviser to the Minister, National Focal Point to Aarhus Convention, Ministry of Environment, Armenia
- Mr. Samir Lemeš, President of NGO Eko Forum Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Discussion

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 - 16:00 Session 3: Access to information and public participation in Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment

Moderator: Ms. Elena Santer, Secretary to the Implementation Committee Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Speakers:
- Mr. Martin Smutný, Integra Consulting Ltd., Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultant
- Ms. Nino Gokhelashvili, Head of Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia
- Ms. Rodica Iordanov, Chisinau Aarhus Centre, Moldova
- Mr. Eldos Abakanov, Association of ecological organizations, Kazakhstan

Discussion
16:00 - 16:30  Coffee Break

16:30 - 18:00  Session 4: Aarhus Centres’ engagement in implementing the Espoo Convention and Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Moderator: Mr. Martin Smutný, Integra Consulting Ltd., Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultant

Speakers:
- Ms. Galyna Sierova, Director Aarhus Centre, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Ukraine
- Ms. Brankica Cmiljanović, Head of the Directorate for Horizontal Legislation, Directorate of Environment, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro
- Ms. Zarina Nazarzoda, Deputy Chairman, Committee of Environment Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Ms. Karina Bekmirzaeva, Head of Department, State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection, Republic of Uzbekistan

Discussion

18:30 - 20:30  Reception hosted by the OSCE – Vorsaal, Hofburg

Thursday, 17 October

09:30 - 11:00  Session 5: Sustainability of Aarhus Centres: resource mobilization and visibility of the Centres and their initiatives

Moderator: Ms. Olivera Zurovac-Kuzman, National Environmental Affairs Officer, OSCE Mission to Serbia

Speakers:
- Mr. Bernhard Zlanabitnig, Director of EU-Umweltbuero, Vice-President of European Environmental Bureau
- Ms. Alminda Mema, Manager of Aarhus Information Centre Shkodra, Albania
- Ms. Silva Ayvazyan, Coordinator of Yerevan Aarhus Centres, Armenia
- Mr. Ikromjon Mamadow, Manager of Aarhus Centre Khujand, Tajikistan

Discussion

11:00 - 11:30  Coffee break
11:30 - 12:30  Session 6: Way forward: improving the achievement of Aarhus Centres’ outcomes

Moderator: Ms. Saule Ospanova, Head of Environmental Cooperation Unit, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Speakers:

- Mr. Sulaiman Tursunakunov, Manager of Aarhus Centres Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyz Republic
- Ms Sonja Popovic, Manager of Aarhus Center from South and East Serbia
- Ms. Alla Yushchuk, National Project Officer, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
- Mr. Tural Mammadov, Senior Advisor, National Focal Point to Aarhus Convention, Ministry of Ecology and National Resources, Republic of Azerbaijan

Discussion

12:30 - 13:00  Conclusion

- Mr. Ralf Ernst, Deputy Co-ordinator, Head of Environmental Activities, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities
- Mr. Andris Stastoli, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the International Organisations in Vienna, Albania OSCE Chairmanship 2020