



# Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities

## Commission Expert Group

**Name:** Commission's expert group on Aarhus Implementation (E00390)  
(Active - Group which operates on a permanent basis)

**Abbreviation:** AI

**Policy Area:** Environment

**Lead DG:** ENV - DG Environment

**Type:** Informal, Permanent

**Scope:** Limited

**Mission:** To discuss issues concerning the implementation of the Aarhus Convention

**Task:** Coordinate with Member States, exchange of views

**Contact:** ENV-AARHUS@ec.europa.eu

**Publication in RegExp:** 12 Oct 2005

**Link to Website:** <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/index.htm>

**Last updated:** 18 Nov 2016

## **Additional Information**

### **Activity Report**

The last meeting of the expert group was held on 27 November 2014. The agenda as well as more information is available at the link below:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/experts\\_groups.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/experts_groups.htm)

### **Activity Report**

A meeting was held in 2008, where general issues of Aarhus implementation were discussed with members of the group. The next meeting was held on 12 November 2012 in Brussels, in the premises of the DG Environment of the European Commission on the topic of access to justice in environmental matters, in particular recent studies and the draft eJustice fact sheets were discussed. For further presentations and more information on access to justice related activities see the link to DG ENV website. See also attached agenda. A meeting with MS Aarhus experts was held on 11 October 2013 in order to discuss possible options for future activity on access to justice in environmental matters. The German and UK representatives expressed doubts on the added value of a Commission initiative in this field. In particular, Germany took the view that access to Justice for NGOs under Article 9(3) of the Aarhus Convention was deliberately not foreseen when the Aarhus Convention was negotiated and the situation should not be altered, as its national case-law already foresaw standing for environmental NGOs. DG ENV referred to the case-law of the CJEU on Article 9(3) ("Slovak Bear" case, C-240/09), which declared that NGOs should be given standing. Austria had a different view, seeing this case as having far reaching impact on its legal system. The United Kingdom took the view that the provisions of the Aarhus Convention were sufficient and there was no need for further EU legislation. All other MS did not pronounce themselves on the appropriateness of an EU initiative. Valuable inputs on specific issues were made, in particular, by the representatives of Bulgaria (favouring the inclusion of access to justice provisions in sectoral legislation, such as Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Latvia, joined by several MS, expressed the wish that reporting obligations in any possible initiative were kept to the very minimum because of the burden they may create for collecting information and statistics. For details of the agenda and delivered presentations see below link.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/events\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/events_en.htm)

#### [Document 1](#)

(approx. 28 kb)

### **Selection Procedure (members)**

The government experts (type D) are nominated by the EU Member States. Participation to the group is open to accession countries, EEA and EFTA countries (type E).

### **Internal Rules of Procedure**

No rules of procedures have been adopted but may be adopted in the next meeting of the group.

### **Other**

The next meeting of the expert group is planned for March 2017.

## Members

### Type D - Member State Authority

Country		Membership Status
Austria	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Belgium	3 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Bulgaria	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Croatia	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Cyprus	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Czech Republic	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Denmark	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Estonia	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Finland	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
France	2 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Germany	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Greece	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Hungary	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Ireland	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Italy	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Latvia	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Lithuania	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Luxembourg	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Malta	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Netherlands	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Poland	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Portugal	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Romania	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Slovakia	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Slovenia	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Spain	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
Sweden	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member
United Kingdom	1 Public Authorit(y-ies)	Member

### Subgroups

No Subgroups assigned to this group.

## Statistics

### Number of Members: 28

Type A - Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Type B - Individual expert appointed as representative of a common interest:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Type C - Organisation:	0		
Type D - Member State Authority:	28		

### Number of Alternate Members: 0

Type A - Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Type B - Individual expert appointed as representative of a common interest:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Type C - Organisation:	0		
Type D - Member State Authority:	0		

### Number of Observers: 0

Type A - Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Type B - Individual expert appointed as representative of a common interest:	0	female: 0	male: 0
Type C - Organisation:	0		
Type D - Member State Authority:	0		