



The UNECE has recently launched a new environmental website, **<http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/>**, aimed at promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention. The convention, which focused on the issues of improving access to information and citizen's involvement in environmental issues, was adopted in the Danish town of Aarhus in 1998. In addition to supporting the Aarhus convention, the Clearinghouse also contains information regarding principle 10 of the Rio Summit.

The principle aims of the Aarhus Clearinghouse are to collect, disseminate, and exchange information on laws and practices relevant to the rights of:

- Public Access to Information
- Public Participation in Decision Making
- Public Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

The Clearinghouse provides access to information on national implementing legislation and practices. Information gathered through the reporting requirements under the Aarhus Convention are published on the site, as well as information submitted by NGO's.

The site aspires to be a valuable source of information for NGOs, IPOs, researchers, students and members of the general public. Content published in the Clearinghouse is primarily of European origin, but other relevant international information is also present.

[>> next page](#)

[close window](#)





>> Once on the site, material is stored using a What, How, Who, Where system of organisation. Some examples of material present on the site are: links to various environmental associations and government websites, publications, and information on upcoming conferences. A short profile of the Green Spider Network can be found within the Clearinghouse's Resource Directory.

The Clearinghouse also assists in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention by publishing information from public authorities on the state of the environment, policies and measures taken for its protection, as well as health and safety issues. It encourages public participation in environmental decision making by publishing the details of proposals of projects relating to the environment, or plans and programmes relating to the environment. With this information, citizens and environmental groups are able to comment and take part in the decision making process. Consequently, citizens have a right to challenge any public decision has been made without consultation.

The Secretary of the Aarhus Clearinghouse, is Mr Michael Stanley-Jones, who the GSN network members will know from his presentation at their Annual Meeting in Rome. Please contact him for more details about the Clearinghouse, or for information on how to contribute.

UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division, Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Phone: +41 (0)22 917 24 42
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 01 07
E-mail: michael.stanley-jones@unece.org
Web site: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp>

The EECN is DG Environment's support structure for the European Environmental Communication Networks. Currently these include the Green Spiders Network and The Network of Urban Forums for Sustainable Development.

The website can be accessed here:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/networks/index_en.htm

<< previous page

close window

