

Agenda Symposium 'Best Practices on Access to Environmental Information'

3 December 2018, *Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte*, Greifswalder Str. 4, 10405 Berlin

Facilitation: Prof. Dr. Thomas Schomerus, Leuphana University Lüneburg; Karl Stracke, UfU

09:30 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. Welcoming Speeches

Dr. Nadja Salzborn, Federal Environment Agency (UBA) and *Dr. Michael Zschiesche*, Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU e.V.)

Panel 1 Evaluation of National AtEI Acts

10:20 a.m. Evaluation of the Dutch AtEI Act (2009) and its Impacts on the Practice of Access to Environmental Information

- *Marte van der Loop*, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations

10:50 a.m. Evaluation of the German AtEI Act: Main Challenges in the German Administrative and Legal Practice

- *Prof. Dr. Thomas Schomerus*, Leuphana University of Lüneburg (GER)
- *Karl Stracke*, Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UfU e.V.)
- *Dr. Kerstin Tews*, Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU), Free University of Berlin (GER)

Questions of understanding / Discussion (15 min)

12:00 a.m. Light lunch

Panel 2 International Best Practices of Parties to the Aarhus Convention (AC)

01:00 p.m. Overview on Best Practices on AtEI on the European Level

- *Daniele Franzone*, Principal Administrator, EU-Commission Directorate General Environment

Questions of understanding (10 min)

01:30 p.m. "Key Trends in the Implementation of the Access to Information Pillar of the Aarhus Convention"

- *Maryna Yanush*, Environmental Affairs Officer, Aarhus Convention Secretariat, UNECE

Questions of understanding (10 min)

Panel 3 Best Practices of Parties to the AC for Selected Topics

02:00 p.m. Topic: Mediation, Non-judicial Procedures

Input "Switzerland"

- *Elena Trigo*, Lawyer, Federal Environment Agency, Switzerland

Questions of understanding / Discussion

02:30 p.m. Coffee break/Sweets

03:00 p.m. Topic: Internal Administrative Mechanisms Ensuring Swift Responses Within Short Timeframes

Input "Norway"

- *Cecile Bergmann*, Member of Oslo City Hall (tbc)

Questions of understanding / Discussion

03:30 p.m. Topic: Access to Information from Private Bodies under the UK Environmental Information Regulations

Input "United Kingdom"

- *Robert McCracken*, Barrister, Fellow of the Centre for European Law, King's College London

Questions of understanding / Discussion

04:00 p.m. Topic: The Advisory Role of the "Commission d'accès aux documents administratifs" (CADA)

Input "France"

- *Pearl N'GUYEN-DUY* (Rapporteure-générale of the Commission d'accès aux documents administratifs, CADA) (tbc)

Questions of understanding / Discussion

Panel 4 Final Discussion and Further Best Practices in Parties to the AC

04:30 p.m. Open Discussion

Attendees are invited to introduce further national best practices

05:15 p.m. Closing Speech/Remarks

Dr. Nadja Salzborn, Federal Environment Agency (UBA)

05:30 p.m. End

06:30 p.m. Optional joint dinner Restaurant "Al Dente", Greifswalder Straße 29, 10405 (on own expenses)

To register for the symposium please contact: **Karl Stracke**
(E-Mail: karl.stracke@ufu.de; Phone +49 30 / 428 499 331)

Please find below the information about the conference venue in Berlin as well as possible Hotel options nearby.

Hotel-options close to the conference venue:

- Hotel Zarenhof-Prenzlauer Berg ****

Schönhauser Allee 140, 0437 Berlin

<http://www.hotel-zarenhof.de/default.aspx?lang=en>

Info: For this hotel, we provided a contingent with special conditions. Please ask for these conditions during your booking process indicating the password "AARHUS".

- Hotel ALEX

Greifswalder Straße 3

10405 Berlin

<https://www.alex-hotel.de/?lang=en>

- Hotel Zarenhof-Mitte***

Eichendorffstraße 4, 10115 Berlin

<https://www.hotel-zarenhof.de/hotel-zarenhof-berlin-mitte/?lang=en>