



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑΣ  
ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ  
ΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ



Πανεπιστήμιο  
Κύπρου



Γραφείο Επιτρόπου  
Περιβάλλοντος



ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΙΚΩΝ  
ΟΡΓΑΝΩΣΕΩΝ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ (ΟΠΟΚ)



UNECE

## COUNTRY VISIT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS UNDER THE AARHUS CONVENTION TO CYPRUS

### CONFERENCE ON ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

Thursday, 8 February 2024, 16:00-19:30

*Main Ceremony room*

*Central Buildings of the University of Cyprus (old campus),*

*75 Kallipoleos Avenue, Nicosia, Cyprus*

## AGENDA

**Objective of the event:** Raising awareness and building capacity on aspects of Environmental Justice, the Aarhus Convention and Cyprus' responsibilities under article 3(8), and the role of the elected Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders.

### UNECE participants:

- Mr Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention
- Ms Laetitia Battisti, Advisor to the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders
- Ms Anastasia Giadrossi, Associate Expert in Legal Affairs (JPO), Aarhus Convention secretariat

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|-------------|---|--|
| 16:00-16:20 | <i>Registration</i>   |  |
|             | <b>OPENING OF THE MEETING</b>   |  |
| 16:20-16:35 | Opening and welcome speeches by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (MARDE)</li> <li>• the Cyprus Commissioner for Environment</li> <li>• Representative of the Federation of Environmental Organizations of Cyprus (NGO)</li> </ul> | <i>Ms Maria Panayiotou</i><br><br><i>Ms Antonia Theodosiou</i><br><br><i>ΟΠΟΚ</i>                          |
| 16:35-16:45 | 1. Introduction: The Aarhus Convention and its implementation in Cyprus   | <i>Ms Irene Constantinou,</i><br><i>Ms Anastasia Priki -</i><br><i>Department of</i><br><i>Environment</i> |

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|-------------|--|---|
| 16:45-17:00 | 2. Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Cyprus: the legal shortcomings in the light of the Aarhus Convention and EU Law | <i>Dr Ioanna Hadjiyianni, Assistant Professor in Public, EU and Environmental Law at the University of Cyprus</i> |
| 17:00-17:15 | 3. Access to Justice in relation to the rest of pillars of the Aarhus Convention: a comparative legal analysis                   | <i>Dr. iur. Demetrios Devetzis, LL.M, M.L.E., Assistant Professor of Law, Frederick University, Visiting</i>      |
| 17:15-17:45 | <i>COFFEE BREAK</i>  |   |
| 17:45-18:15 | 4. Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders: Mandate & role   | <i>Mr Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the Aarhus Convention</i>                 |
| 18:15-19:00 | 5. Cyprus cases in access to Environmental Justice   | <i>Representatives of Environmental NGOs</i>  |
| 19:00-19:30 | 6. Q&A/discussion  | <i>All</i>  |
| 19:30       | 7. Closure of the meeting  | <i>DoE</i>  |