

**Bilag 1**

Convention on Access to information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matter

submitted by  
the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy through  
the Ad Hoc Preparatory Working Group of Senior Officials

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY  
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"Environment for Europe",  
Aarhus, Denmark, 23-25 June 1998

The Parties to this Convention,

*Recalling* principle 1 of the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment,

*Recalling also* principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolutions 37/7 of 28 October 1982 on the World Charter for Nature and 45/94 of 14 December 1990 on the need to ensure a healthy environment for the well-being of individuals,

*Recalling* the European Charter on Environment and Health adopted at the First European Conference on Environment and Health of the World Health Organization in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, on 8 December 1989,

\*/ Final text endorsed by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its special session on 16-18

March 1998 for adoption at the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe".

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*Affirming* the need to protect, preserve and improve the state of the environment and to ensure sustainable and environmentally sound development,

*Recognizing* that adequate protection of the environment is essential to human well-being and the enjoyment of basic human rights, including the right to life itself,

*Recognizing* also that every person has the right to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, and the duty, both individually and in association with others, to protect and improve the environment for the benefit of present and future generations,

*Considering* that, to be able to assert this right and observe this duty, citizens must have access to information, be entitled to participate in decision-making and have access to justice in environmental matters, and acknowledging in this regard that citizens may need assistance in order to exercise their rights,

*Recognizing* that, in the field of the environment, improved access to information and public participation in decision-making enhance the quality and the implementation of decisions, contribute to public awareness of environmental issues, give the public the opportunity to express its concerns and enable public authorities to take due account of such concerns,

*Aiming* thereby to further the accountability of and transparency in decision-making and to strengthen public support for decisions on the environment,

*Recognizing* the desirability of transparency in all branches of government and inviting legislative bodies to implement the principles of this Convention in their proceedings,

*Recognizing also* that the public needs to be aware of the procedures for participation in environmental decision-making, have free access to them and know how to use them,