



Justice & Environment
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Starting again

Justice and Environment has long been involved into analyzing, implementing and also shaping European environmental policy and law. We have an abundance of experience on how to best interpret the environmental *acquis communautaire* for the interest of the environment and sustainable development. And we want to share now our knowledge, on a regular basis, with the readers – also offering an opportunity to comment our actions and give us suggestions for future directions of our work. We are reviving our newsletter service that was available a few years ago. Please follow our bi-monthly volumes on our [website!](#)

Green Week report

J&E has successfully received endorsement from the European Commission and could organize an official satellite event during the Green Week 2013 in Brussels. The major topic of the event was the 15th Birthday of the Aarhus Convention.

The Convention was signed in 1998, 15 years ago in the Danish city of Aarhus. Its entry into force in October 2001 marked the beginning of a truly new era in the regulation and practice of environmental democracy. This is what J&E wanted to commemorate with its event held in Brussels on the 5th of June in cooperation with the European Environmental Bureau (EEB).

The event started at 9:00 and continued until 13:00. Presenters were Jeremy Wates (secretary general of EEB, former secretary of the Convention), Csaba Kiss (Aarhus Convention topic team leader of J&E), Adam Daniel Nagy (DG Environment of the Commission), Pavel Cerny (member of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee), Zeljka Leljak-Gracin (J&E and Zelena Akcija, Croatia), Ana Barreira (J&E and IIDMA, Spain) and Alan Andrews (ClientEarth).

There were approximately 20 participants in the Black Lounge of Hotel Be Manos where a lively discussion evolved over the ultimate impacts of the Convention. Presenters as well as participants concluded at the end of the meeting that the Convention has a multifold impact, on the legal, the policy-cultural and on the practical-economic levels as well. They also shared the view that the Union should complement the regulatory framework of the EU by adopting an Access to Environmental Justice Directive that is in the pipeline since 2003...

What are we up to? Interim results as of now

J&E is active in a number of fields relevant for the protection of the environment.

If you are interested in detail about the topic areas J&E is covering, please visit our website and read our annual [Work Plan](#) for 2013.

Here are some of the milestones of the implementation of our Work Plan according to topic areas:

- **access rights:** J&E is analyzing the functioning and success rate of the so-called EU Pilot as well as running a public survey on the awareness of the general public in the Aarhus Convention and EU environmental law. The surveys can be found here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G88Q9PB> and <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GLPNP76> here:
- **environmental impact assessment:** J&E has participated in a joint NGO campaign together with ClientEarth and EEB in order to achieve a progressive result during the voting in the EP'S ENVI Committee on the amended EIA Directive. According to latest information, the voting had preserved the progressive elements of the Directive.
- **land use planning:** J&E is analyzing the legal framework of a number of EU countries in terms of access to justice against land use planning decisions. We will surely submit a communication to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee if we find a failure to comply with the Convention!

Who are we? Getting personal

J&E is a professional NGO but if you want to see the personal side of J&E all you have to do is visit our Flickr account where lots of photos are uploaded on our meetings, events, people: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/justiceandenvironment/>.

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