

# International Conference on Practical Implementation of the Aarhus Convention

<b>Organizer</b>	Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic
<b>Partners</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>16 – 17 April 2009 (Thursday - Friday)</b>
<b>Place</b>	<b>The Supreme Administrative Court of the Czech Republic</b> Moravské náměstí 6 <b>Brno</b> <b>Czech Republic</b>
<b>Main issue</b>	<p>The conference on practical implementation of the Aarhus Convention will focus on implementation of the 3rd pillar of the Aarhus Convention. The conference will deal namely with the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Transposition and position of the Convention in national legal systems and EC law,</li><li>- Areas and cases in which the public has access to courts in environmental matters,</li><li>- Extent to which the courts review the acts and omissions of public authorities and private persons,</li><li>- Accessibility and efficiency of environmental judicial protection,</li><li>- Importance and future of the proposal of the EC directive on access to justice in environmental matters.</li></ul> <p>The conference is scheduled to last for two days; during the morning part of both of the days, the basic issues will be presented at the plenary in the form of presentations lasting about 30 minutes; in the afternoon the participants will discuss particular cases in small working groups and results of these discussions will be presented by the end of the afternoon by facilitators of each of the group to the plenary.</p>
<b>Target group</b>	It will be dedicated to judges and other legal professionals who put into practice the principles of the Convention, but also to NGOs and public administration acting in the field of the environmental law.
<b>Language</b>	Czech, English (simultaneous interpretation)
<b>Registration</b>	<a href="https://events.eu2009.cz/registration/acp/">https://events.eu2009.cz/registration/acp/</a>
<b>Fees</b>	The Conference registration is free of charge, but participants should cover their travel and

accommodation expenses.

(The room reservation for participants is made at the hotel Continental, where the reception will be also held; **confirmation of your room reservation is a part of your registration, see above**).

## Accommodation

The room reservation for participants is made at the hotel Continental ([www.continentalbrno.cz](http://www.continentalbrno.cz)), 5 minutes on foot from the building of Supreme Administrative Court, where the conference is held. **Confirmation of your room reservation is a part of your registration, see above.**

## Flights and Ground Transportation

### Flights

There are three airports you can fly to: Brno airport, Prague airport, approximately 200 km from Brno, and Vienna, Austria, approximately 150 km from Brno.

List of airports from which you can fly to Brno:

<http://www.airport-brno.cz/index.php?id=0&lang=en>

### Ground Transportation

#### From Prague to Brno

Ruzyně Airport – Main train Station

From Ruzyně you can use the bus line No. 119 – get off at the bus stop Dejvická – change to Underground, green line - „A“ (entrance right next to the bus stop) – get off at „Muzeum“ – change to red line - „C“ (follow signs) – get off at „Nádraží Holešovice“ or „Hlavní nádraží“ depending on your arrival to Prague

Nádraží Holešovice – Brno Main train station on 15 –16 April 2009:

8:30 (arrival Brno 11:14)

9:30 (arrival Brno 12:14)

11:30 (arrival Brno 14:14)

Then every hour until 17:30

19:30 (arrival Brno 22:14)

20:30 (arrival Brno 23:14)

21:30 (arrival Brno 16 April 0:15)

Hlavní nádraží – Brno Main train station on 15 – 16 April 2009:

18:23 (arrival Brno 20:51)

### Brno

#### Brno Airport – Main Train Station

From Brno Airport use the bus No. 76 (every half an hour from 04:00 to 23:00) – get off at Main train station – change to tram No. 1 - get off at „Moravské náměstí“ (2nd stop) – walk to „Kounicova Street 6 (Hotel Continental)

## Program

Day 1 – Thursday 16 April 2009

8:30 – 9:00	Registration of participants
9:00-9:25	Welcome + introductory words

**Session I: General Introduction of the Aarhus Convention**  
(Animation – M. Bobek)

9:25-9:50	Lecture 1: The Role of Courts and Judges with Regard to the Protection of Environment	<b>R. Carnwath (Lord Justice of Appeal, UK)</b>
9:50-10:00	Questions, comments	
10:00-10:30	Lecture 2: Introduction of the Aarhus Convention (overview of the content with main emphasis on the access to courts)	<b>L. Lavrysen (Constitutional Court, Belgium)</b>
10:30-10:40	Questions, comments	
10:40-10:55	Coffee break	

**Session II: Experience with Application of the Convention in Practice**  
(Animation – M. Bobek)

10:55 – 11:25	Lecture 3: Aarhus Convention in the Court's Practice (judge's view)	<b>K. Kuusiniemi (Supreme Administrative Court, Finland)</b> <b>J. Passer (Supreme Administrative Court, Czech Republic)-</b>
11:15 – 11:25	Questions, comments	
11:25 – 11:45	Lecture 4: Problems of Application of art. 9 of the Aarhus Convention (public concerned view)	<b>P. Černý (Environmental Law Service/E&amp;J; Czech Republic)</b>
11:45 – 11:55	Questions, comments	
11:55– 12:30	Plenary discussion	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	

**Session III: Working Groups on Access to Justice according to the Convention**

14:00-14:15	The methodology of the working groups
14:15 – 16:00	Working groups – discussion on cases from court practice or model cases
16:00-16:20	Coffee break

16:20 – 17:45	Presentation of the working groups outcomes, plenary discussion	<b>Animation – P. Černý (or other member of J&amp;E) - confirmed</b>
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**reception at the hotel**

**Day 2 – Friday 17 April 2009**

**Session IV: Aarhus Convention and the EC Law**  
(Animation – F.Dienstbier )

9:30 – 10:30	Lecture 5: Implementation of the Aarhus Convention “Trough” the EC Law; Proposal of the Access to Justice Directive	<b>Rass Holdgaard (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark)</b> <b>M. Smolek (MoF, Czech Republic Representative at ECJ)</b> <b>Ch. Pirotte (EC,- DG Environment)</b>
10:30-10:45	Questions, comments, discussion	
10:45 - 11:05	Coffee break	

**Session V: The Compliance Mechanism of the Convention**  
(Animation – F.Dienstbier)

11:05 – 11:40	Lecture 6: The Compliance Mechanism of the Convention (overview of the decisions of the Compliance Committee)	<b>J.Jendroszka (University of Opole, Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee)</b>
11:40 – 12:00	Questions, comments, discussion	
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:45	Working groups - discussions about selected decisions of the Compliance Committee on Article 9 of the Convention	
14:45-15:00	Coffee break	
15:00-16:30	Closing plenary discussion	