

Regional conference

Human Rights and the Environment in Southeast Europe

PROGRAMME

[Link for online participants](#)

Meeting ID: 827 8679 5935

Passcode: 527646

17 and 18 October 2024

Venue: Hotel Avala (Staklena sala/Glass Hall)

Budva, Montenegro

Wednesday, 16 October 2024

Arrival of the participants in the afternoon

20:00 Welcoming cocktail

Thursday, 17 October 2024

9:00 – 9:30 Registration of participants

9:30 – 10:00 Opening remarks

- **Tanja Kleinsorge**, Head of the Department on the Reykjavik Process and Environment, Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment, Council of Europe (online)
- **Lilja Gretarsdottir**, Head of Co-operation Programmes Division, Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe
- **Snežana Armenko**, President of the Constitutional Court of Montenegro

Moderator: **Elena Jovanovska Brezoska**, Head of Unit, Southeast Europe, Co-operation Programmes Division, Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

10:00 – 10:15 Keynote Speech: Human Right and the environment-current trends and emerging issues (online)

- **David Boyd**, Former UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights and the Environment

10:15 – 11:00 Interconnecting Human Rights and Environmental Protection: Mechanisms and Approaches

European Court of Human right and Inter-American Court of Human Rights

- **Natalia Kobylarz**, Senior Lawyer, European Court of Human Rights

United Nations Mechanisms

- **Igor Gryshko**, Human Rights Officer, Environment and Climate Change Team, Development, Economic and Social Rights Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters-Aarhus Convention

- **Fiona Marshall**, Legal Officer, Secretary to the Compliance Committee and Assistant to the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders, Aarhus Convention secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:45 Substantive environmental human rights (focusing on, *inter alia*, urban development, protected areas, pollution: mining and heavy industry, hydropower)

- **Natalia Kobylarz**, Senior Lawyer, European Court of Human Rights
- **Igor Gryshko**, Human Rights Officer, Environment and Climate Change Team, Development, Economic and Social Rights Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Jędrzej Klatka**, Attorney at Law, Poland
- **Fatima Mrdović**, Judge at the Supreme Court of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Discussion

Moderator: **Gita Parihar**, Environmental and human rights lawyer/Consultant, Council of Europe

12:45 – 14:30 Lunch and family photo

14:30 – 16:00 Environmental Procedural Law and Practice (access to information participation, access to justice and protection)

- **Natalia Kobylarz**, Senior Lawyer, European Court of Human Rights
- **Fiona Marshall**, Legal Officer, Secretary to the Compliance Committee and Assistant to the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders, Aarhus Convention secretariat, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- **Konrad Vossen**, Judge at the Administrative Court of Aachen
- **Sokol Ngresi**, Judge of the Administrative Chamber at the Supreme Court of Albania

Discussion

Moderator: **Elena Jovanovska Brezoska**, Head of Unit, Southeast Europe, Co-operation Programmes Division, Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

16:00 – 16:15 Promotion of Council of Europe tools in advancing environmental protection

Sergey Dikman, Adviser on Strategic Co-operation Development, Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

Friday 18 October 2024

10:00 – 10:45 Group discussion - Application of international and European environmental standards in the civil context: Challenges and ways forward

Moderator: **Sergey Dikman**, Adviser on Strategic Co-operation Development, Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

Rapporteur: **Venera Kabashi**, Human rights lawyer/Consultant, Council of Europe

10:45 – 11:30 Group discussion - Application of international and European environmental standards in the criminal context: Challenges and ways forward

Moderator: **Elena Jovanovska Brezoska**, Head of Southeast Europe Unit, Co-operation Programmes Division, Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

Rapporteur: **Sanja Ramic**, Human rights lawyer and environmental justice specialist/ Consultant, Council of Europe

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:30 Group discussion - Access to Justice in Environmental Matters: Challenges and ways forward

Moderators: **Biljana Sladojević Milatović**, Project Coordinator, Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

Rapporteur: **Ejron Muharremaj**, Vice Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Tirana/Consultant, Council of Europe

12:30 – 12:45 Closing remarks

Lilja Gretarsdottir, Head of Co-operation Programmes Division, Department for the Implementation of Human Rights, Justice and Legal Co-operation Standards, Council of Europe

12:45 Lunch