

Third Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention

Riga, 11 to 13 June 2008

WECF participated with 9 partners from Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Russia in the Third Meeting of the Parties (MOP-3) to the Aarhus Convention from 11 to 13 June 2008 in Riga/Latvia.

The MOP-3 adopted a strategic plan which sets out the future of the Convention. A stronger commitment towards access to justice, which was called for by the NGO community through the European Eco-Forum, was not included; however, the plan foresees to expand the geographical scope of the Convention.

Furthermore, Parties agreed to establish a future Task Force on Public Participation. Unfortunately, the Task Force cannot be formally approved until the next MOP. But Parties promised to set up an informal expert group to work on the issue of public participation in the meantime and to establish the terms and references of this Task Force. Ireland offered to lead the expert group and the Task Force.

Another agenda item of interest was the discussion of thirty-five national reports of implementation. For further information please see [here](#) or contact Jennifer Ricketts (jennifer.ricketts@wecf.eu) or Anke Stock (anke.stock@wecf.eu)