



**National 'Toolkit' for
Community-led Village Design Statements (VDSs) in Ireland**

Inaugural Multi-disciplinary VDS 'Toolkit' Workshop

Thursday 18th October 2012, Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny (Registration at 9.45am)

The All-island, multi-disciplinary VDS Toolkit training workshop (CPD=6.5 hrs) is an initiative of the Heritage Council of Ireland and has been developed in partnership with Meath County Council, Dublin City Council, the village communities in Julianstown (Co. Meath) and Sandymount (Dublin City), the Irish Landscape Institute (ILI), Irish Planning Institute (IPI), Landscape Institute (Northern Ireland) (LINI), Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI), in accordance with Articles 5C and 6B of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) and the UNECE Aarhus Convention.



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- Appendix B** Full Text of the UNECE Aarhus Convention;
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- Appendix E:** Directions to the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny and Sat Nav Co-ordinates.

1. Introduction to the Inaugural All-island, Multi-Disciplinary VDS Training Workshop

This inaugural, multi-disciplinary VDS Training Workshop has been designed within the context of the following International Conventions, the:

- *European Landscape Convention (ELC)*, which was both signed and ratified by the Irish Government in March 2002, and came into effect in Ireland in March 2004 and the likely impacts of the *Faro Convention (Value of Cultural Heritage for Society)*¹, which has not yet been signed/ratified by Ireland (or the United Kingdom); and
- *UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* usually known as the *Aarhus Convention*², which was signed by the Irish Government in June 1998 and which recently came into force in Ireland on the 18th September 2012.

European Landscape Convention (ELC)

Significant changes have taken place in recent times at EU level in relation to the sustainable planning and management of the environment. Measures have been adopted across a wide range of activities including: farming, forestry, infrastructural development, and services provision. Central to such measures has been an emphasis on education, participation, and ownership. A focus on the character and concept of landscape, whereby the local and cultural resonances of all landscapes (rural and urban) are valued and effectively planned, managed and protected in all relevant plans and strategies, has been inherent to the overall approach, as advocated by the European Landscape Convention (ELC³).

The ELC states that any plan which is being undertaken should integrate procedural measures for ensuring that:

*'all action taken to define, implement and monitor landscape policies should be preceded and accompanied by procedures for participation by members of the public and other relevant stakeholders, with the aim of enabling them to play an active role in formulating, implementing and monitoring landscape quality objectives...It implies recognition of the rights and responsibilities of populations to play an active role in the processes of acquiring knowledge, taking decisions and managing the quality of the places where they live. Public involvement in decisions to take action and in the implementation and management of such decisions over time is regarded not as a formal act but as an integral part of management, protection and planning procedures*⁴.

Thus the ELC effectively seeks to place people, irrespective of their backgrounds or age group, qualifications or affiliations, at the centre of all decisions being made in relation to their landscape.

This can best be realised through a collaborative planning framework, which is designed and built upon a consensus-based approach to decision-making. In essence, the means of arriving at agreed outcomes are based upon principles and practices of participation, inclusion, and equality.

UNECE Aarhus Convention

The Aarhus Convention is a new kind of environmental agreement which:

- *Links environmental rights and human rights;*
- *Acknowledges that we owe an obligation to future generations;*
- *Establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement of stakeholders;*
- *Links government accountability to environmental protection;*
- *Focuses on interactions between the public and public authorities in a democratic context.*

¹ See <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Treaties/Html/199.htm>

² See <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html>

³ www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/landscape/

⁴ Source: Council of Europe, Recommendation CM/Rec (2008)3 of the Committee of Members to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, Strasbourg.

The UNECE Aarhus Convention has three main pillars:

1. **Access to information:** any citizen should have the right to get a wide and easy access to environmental information. Public authorities must provide all the information required and collect and disseminate them and in a timely and transparent manner. They can refuse to do this under special situations such as national defence;
2. **Public participation in decision making:** the public must be informed over all the relevant projects and it has to have the chance to participate during the decision-making and legislative process. Decision makers can take advantage from people's knowledge and expertise; this contribution is a strong opportunity to improve the quality of the environmental decisions, outcomes and to guarantee procedural legitimacy;
3. **Access to justice:** the public has the right to judicial or administrative recourse procedures in case a Party violates or fails to adhere to environmental law and the Convention's principles.

The UNECE Aarhus Convention came into force in Ireland on the 18th September 2012.

The key tenets of the *European Landscape Convention* and *Aarhus Convention* lie at the very heart of the approach being championed by the Heritage Council and its partners in the development of the new community-led Village Design Statement initiative in Ireland.

2. Who will benefit by attending this multi-disciplinary VDS Training Workshop?

This new multi-disciplinary training workshop will be of significant value to those whose efforts and activities influence the socio-economic, physical and cultural environments of Irish villages, both rural and urban. Attendees might – for example - be working for a local community group, a local development organisation, a local or regional authority or in private practice.

Such a broad group will clearly come to this training with a range of different agendas and starting points. One of the benefits of this *multi-disciplinary approach* – rather than working only with colleagues from your own sector and disciplines – is that we can focus on the way the various sectors may perceive and value different aspects of *place making at a village/ local level* and in different ways.

Essentially, 'Living Landscapes and Places' provide the context for all these groups: understanding why we may have different perspectives will be a valuable and lasting outcome from this training workshop.

Community-led VDSs and National Policy

Workshop attendees are asked to note that the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government introduced national policy on village design statements for the first time through the *Sustainable Residential Development Guidelines, 2009*, which state that Village Design Statements are a useful innovation in:

- **Describing what is distinctive** about the character of the small town or village in terms of its shape and buildings and its setting in the surrounding countryside;
- **Drawing up design principles** based on conserving distinctive local character and adapting it to, and integrating it within, new development;
- **Ensuring that new development is effectively managed not prevented**, including innovative building and design solutions;
- **Acting as a focus for local communities** to research and analyse their town or village and input into statutory development plans and local area plans.

The 2009 Guidelines also state that Local Planning Authorities should incorporate VDSs into the development plan or local area plans (LAPs). Section 20 of the *Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010* has strengthened the provisions of Section 28 Guidelines, whereby planning authorities shall append a statement to draft development plans stating how Guidelines have been implemented and if applicable, why Guidelines haven't been adopted.

3. Structure of the VDS Training Workshop

This one day training workshop will be based at the Newpark Hotel in Kilkenny City – see www.flynnhotels.com/Newpark_Hotel_Kilkenny?gclid=CPucltVq71CFQRO4Qod20gARg – Tel 056 776 0500.

The workshop will comprise of a series of briefings, group exercises and group discussions to introduce the overall concept and value of the new community-led approach to Village Design Statements in Ireland. Attendees are asked to note that the workshop does not include any site visits and outdoor clothing is not required.

4. VDS Workshop Aims and Objectives

This training workshop has been designed on the assumption that at least some of our participants will have little, or no, background knowledge of village design and participative planning policies and practice. Attending this workshop will provide you with:

- An introduction to the philosophy of the new community-led approach to Village Design Statements in Ireland and how it evolved and the international conventions underpinning the approach;
- An understanding of the key differences between public participation and consultation;
- A raised awareness and understanding of the concepts of villagescape and how to assess and define character in a local setting, and also how to undertake a character appraisal;
- An understanding of how to set up new collaborative and participative structures to deliver the required ‘process’;
- The eight key critical steps involved in community-led VDSs that ensures the delivery of the required outputs and desired outcomes for the project partners – namely the village community, the local authority and other statutory agencies and bodies; and
- The opportunity to work closely and network with people from various backgrounds and to appreciate the value of taking a multidisciplinary view of village design and collaborative planning issues.

VDS Workshop Objectives

By attending this multi-disciplinary workshop you will have an opportunity to learn about:

a) Why our Irish Villages – both rural and urban - matter

- * The scope and implications of the *European Landscape Convention (ELC)* and the *Faro Convention* for Ireland, both north and south.
- * What it is that makes an Irish village distinctive – how does landscape character contribute to a sense of place and a sense of belonging?
- * Character as a key element of local landscape and villagescapes, local cultures, natural and cultural heritage, human well-being/quality of life and consolidation of national and European identity.
- * The legacy of the Celtic Tiger and the need to restore ‘damaged landscapes’ and enhance the public realm.

b) The Importance of effective and meaningful Public Participation

- * Requirements for public participation under the *Aarhus Convention*⁵ and the *European Landscape Convention*.
- * The *Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010*, e.g. Sections 11 and 20, which make provision for the involvement of children or groups or associations representing the interests of children⁶,
- * Engaging effectively from the outset of the process with the full range of key stakeholders who might have an interest in sustainable development issues at a local level – building trust.
- * Barriers to public participation – social, cultural, etc.

⁵ <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/>

⁶ <http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/bills28/bills/2009/3409/b34d09d.pdf>

- * Presenting village planning and design and the wide ranging benefits of integrated local villagescape management with enthusiasm and in a manner appropriate for different audiences.
 - * Raising public awareness of Ireland’s unique and varied village landscapes and their contribution to our unique ‘sense of place, identity and belonging’ and cultural heritage.
 - * Opportunities for involving the public (of all ages) in information and data gathering exercises.
- c) *The Community-led approach to Village Design Statements – A collaborative and participative process*
- * Why undertake a community-led VDS – the likely Benefits and Outcomes of community-led VDSs in Irish rural and urban villages.
 - * *Lessons Learned* from the community-led VDS ‘pilots’ undertaken in Julianstown, Co. Meath and Sandymount, Dublin City;
 - * Getting to know the skills, talents and interests within your village community.
 - * The importance of knowing at the start whether your community is ready to undertake a community-led village design statement – is your community “good to go?”.
 - * Recommended two-level structure required to undertake successful community-led Village Design Statements in Ireland.
 - * The overall Eight Steps involved in the community-led village design statement process.
 - * The key outputs of a community-led VDS – ‘*Shared*’ *Vision, Agreed Design Principles* and *Agreed VDS Action Plan* (optional output – VDS poster for local schools and colleges).
 - * Opportunities for networking and sharing experiences in relation to place-making at a local level throughout the island of Ireland.
 - * How the overall collaborative and participative process can unlock funding potential for VDS projects.
 - * Monitoring and evaluating the VDS – the benefits of community-led monitoring.
- d) *Ways in which Community-led VDSs can be put to use:*
- * Community-led VDSs as a ‘participative tool’ for managing and enhancing village environments and encouraging sustainable communities – social, environmental and economic;
 - * Enabling and encouraging long-term socio-economic development, creating efficient and innovative local networks for all age groups and enhanced ‘*social capital*’.
 - * How community-led VDSs can form the basis for *quality* spatial planning strategies/plans and decisions at a local and county level (e.g. County Development Plans, Local Area Plans along with SEA, EIA and AA); for advising on land management and enhancement options, i.e. encouraging a *participative and active society*.
 - * Using VDS to inform the implementation of innovative tourism management, agri-environment and and social enterprise development strategies.
 - * Community-led VDSs as the conduit for place-making, landscape and other environmental objectives such as biodiversity and green infrastructure (GI); and as a tool for monitoring landscape change.
 - * Opportunities for community-led VDSs in relation to the future promotion of science, technology and innovation (STI) in Ireland?

5. VDS Workshop Programme – 18th October 2012

Thursday 18th October

- 9.45 a.m. **Registration**
- 10.00 a.m. **Welcome and Launch of Toolkit**– *Michael Starrett, Chief Executive, Heritage Council*
- 10.10 a.m. **Introduction to the Day** – *Alison Harvey, Heritage Council*
- 10.15 a.m. **Public Participation v Consultation - Theory and Principles** – *Alison Harvey*
- 10.35 a.m. **Villagescape and Townscape Appraisal** – *Grainne Shaffrey, Shaffrey Associates and Heritage Council Board Member*
- 10.55 a.m. **Understanding Architectural Conservation Areas** – *Colm Murray, Architectural Officer, Heritage Council*
- 11.15 a.m. **Group Exercise – Community-led Character Appraisals (Tea/Coffee in break out rooms)**
- 11.50 p.m. **Sandymount Pilot VDS (Urban) – Process, Outcomes and Lessons Learned** – *John McAlinden, Chair of VDS Steering Group, Joe McCarthy, Vice-Chair, and Valerie Jennings, Project Manager for production of VDS*
- 12.15 p.m. **Julianstown Pilot VDS (Rural) – Process, Outcomes and Lessons Learned** – *Emer Dolphin, Chair of VDS Steering Group and Chair of Julianstown and District Community Association*
- 12.40 p.m. **Group Discussion chaired by Éamonn De Stafort, Tidy Towns Adjudicator**
- 1.00 p.m. **Lunch in Newpark Hotel + Networking**
- 2.00 p.m. **Community-led VDS ‘Toolkit’ – A Step by Step Process** – *Alison Harvey*
- 2.30 p.m. **Group Exercise – Public Participation**
- 3.10 p.m. **Funding Opportunities through LEADER** – *Aoife McGrath, Project Officer, Meath Partnership*
- 3.30 p.m. **Great Western Greenway and VDSs in Mayo** – *Dr Deirdre Cunningham, Heritage Officer, Mayo County Council and Sean Carolan, Chairman of the Mulranny Environment Group.*
- 3.50 p.m. **Group Discussion – chaired by Dr Henry Lyons, Heritage Council Board Member**
- 4.10 p.m. **Summary of Workshop – Next Steps** – *Michael Starrett, Heritage Council*
- 4.20 p.m. **Workshop Evaluation**
- 4.30 p.m. **Close**

A list of ‘bios’ for the full **VDS Workshop Training Team** is provided at *Appendix C*.

6. Practicalities – Accommodation, Contact Details, Health and Safety, etc.

Accommodation etc

As noted above, the workshop will be held at the Newpark Hotel in Kilkenny. The Newpark Hotel is offering a specially reduced rate of **€69** for bed and breakfast for workshop attendees who have to travel a long distance on the evening before the workshop. **Workshop fee includes the provision of lunch and all workshop materials.**

Contact Details and Penalty for Last minute Cancellations

Contact **Alison Harvey, VDS Workshop Co-ordinator** at the Heritage Council, Tel 056 7770777 and/or Mobile 087 419 3458 (00353 56 7770777 or 00353 87 419 3458). As per the booking form, please note that any late cancellations will incur a fee.

Health and Safety Statement 2012

An approved *Health and Safety Statement* has been prepared and is provided at *Appendix D*. Participants are required to read the Statement before they commence the workshop. As part of the Health and Safety Statement, a Certified First Aider will be available during workshop hours – *Anne Barcoe, Heritage Council*.

7. Workshop Fee

The workshop fee is €50 for two places and €30 for one place. This fee is made possible thanks to the financial contribution made by the Heritage Council during the workshop development. As above, please note that participants will be responsible for paying for their own accommodation, if required.

8. Travelling to Kilkenny City

Directions (including Sat Nav information) to Kilkenny are provided at *Appendix E*. We also recommend that you use the AA Route Planner - http://www.aaireland.ie/routes_beta/.

Carpool Initiative

The Heritage Council would wish to highlight the website www.liftshare.com. (This website is recommended by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) for the car pooling of their training courses). Once registered, participants should enter the details of their proposed journey to and from the VDS Workshop. They can then decide if they wish to offer or share a lift, or both, and will automatically receive notification of interested parties in their locality. The Heritage Council will also provide a link between workshop attendees, if required.

9. Post-Workshop Networking

It is intended that workshop attendees will be able to network and support each other once the workshop has been undertaken, in order to encourage the post-workshop learning process and further networking. The Heritage Council's **Irish Community-led VDS Network LinkedIn Group** has been set up to facilitate and enable this to happen. To join the group, follow the link <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Irish-CommunityLed-Village-Design-Statement-4663581/about>. Workshop attendees, who provide an email address as part of registration, will also automatically be sent an electronic invitation by the Heritage Council to join the on-line group once they have completed the workshop. It is envisaged that this networking and discussion forum will enable workshop attendees and trainers to communicate on a regular basis on attendees' current or planned projects, which have a village design, and collaborative planning and management focus.

10. Further VDS Workshops in 2013?

This is the first multi-disciplinary Community-led VDS Workshop to be held in Ireland. The Heritage Council and its partners thank you for supporting this new initiative. Given the demand for this workshop, it is envisaged that further workshops will be held in other locations but ultimately, this is dependent on the current *Critical Review* of the Heritage Council being carried out by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoHG) and the Heritage Council's budget.

11. Additional Copies of the Community-led VDS Workshop Programme

To download copies of this workshop programme, please visit the Heritage Council's website – www.heritagecouncil.ie/planning/.

European Landscape Convention

Florence, 20.X.2000

Preamble

The member States of the Council of Europe signatory hereto,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, and that this aim is pursued in particular through agreements in the economic and social fields;

Concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment;

Noting that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation;

Aware that the landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity;

Acknowledging that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas;

Noting that developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques and in regional planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy are in many cases accelerating the transformation of landscapes;

Wishing to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes and to play an active part in the development of landscapes;

Believing that the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone;

Having regard to the legal texts existing at international level in the field of protection and management of the natural and cultural heritage, regional and spatial planning, local self-government and transfrontier co-operation, in particular the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 19 September 1979), the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 3 October 1985), the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) (Valletta, 16 January 1992), the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid, 21 May 1980) and its additional protocols, the European Charter of Local Self-government (Strasbourg, 15 October 1985), the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio, 5 June 1992), the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 16 November 1972), and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 25 June 1998);

Acknowledging that the quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource, and that it is important to co-operate towards its protection, management and planning;

Wishing to provide a new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe,

Have agreed as follows:

Chapter I – General provisions

Article 1 – Definitions

For the purposes of the Convention:

a "Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;

b "Landscape policy" means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes;

c "Landscape quality objective" means, for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings;

d "Landscape protection" means actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity;

e "Landscape management" means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes;

f "Landscape planning" means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.

Article 2 – Scope

Subject to the provisions contained in Article 15, this Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

Article 3 – Aims

The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.

Chapter II – National measures

Article 4 – Division of responsibilities

Each Party shall implement this Convention, in particular Articles 5 and 6, according to its own division of powers, in conformity with its constitutional principles and administrative arrangements, and respecting the principle of subsidiarity, taking into account the European Charter of Local Self-government. Without derogating from the provisions of this Convention, each Party shall harmonise the implementation of this Convention with its own policies.

Article 5 – General measures

Each Party undertakes:

a to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;

b to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6;

c to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies mentioned in paragraph b above;

d to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

Article 6 – Specific measures

A Awareness-raising

Each Party undertakes to increase awareness among the civil society, private organisations, and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them.

B Training and education

Each Party undertakes to promote:

a training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations;

b multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sectors and for associations concerned;

c school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning.

C Identification and assessment

1 With the active participation of the interested parties, as stipulated in Article 5.c, and with a view to improving knowledge of its landscapes, each Party undertakes:

- a
 - i to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory;
 - ii to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them;
 - iii to take note of changes;

b to assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned.

2 These identification and assessment procedures shall be guided by the exchanges of experience and methodology, organised between the Parties at European level pursuant to Article 8.

D Landscape quality objectives

Each Party undertakes to define landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation in accordance with Article 5.c.

E Implementation

To put landscape policies into effect, each Party undertakes to introduce instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape.

Chapter III – European Co-Operation

Article 7 – International policies and programmes

Parties undertake to co-operate in the consideration of the landscape dimension of international policies and programmes, and to recommend, where relevant, the inclusion in them of landscape considerations.

Article 8 – Mutual assistance and exchange of information

The Parties undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under other articles of this Convention, and in particular:

- a to render each other technical and scientific assistance in landscape matters through the pooling and exchange of experience, and the results of research projects;
- b to promote the exchange of landscape specialists in particular for training and information purposes;
- c to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Article 9 – Transfrontier landscapes

The Parties shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes.

Article 10 – Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention

1 Existing competent Committees of Experts set up under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe shall be designated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

2 Following each meeting of the Committees of Experts, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit a report on the work carried out and on the operation of the Convention to the Committee of Ministers.

3 The Committees of Experts shall propose to the Committee of Ministers the criteria for conferring and the rules governing the Landscape award of the Council of Europe.

Article 11 – Landscape award of the Council of Europe

1 The Landscape award of the Council of Europe is a distinction which may be conferred on local and regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a Party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe.

The distinction may be also conferred on non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning.

2 Applications for the Landscape award of the Council of Europe shall be submitted to the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 by the Parties. Transfrontier local and regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned, may apply provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

3 On proposals from the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the Landscape award of the Council of Europe, adopt the relevant rules and confer the Award.

4 The granting of the Landscape award of the Council of Europe is to encourage those receiving the award to ensure the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of the landscape areas concerned.

Chapter IV – Final clauses

Article 12 – Relationship with other instruments

The provisions of this Convention shall not prejudice stricter provisions concerning landscape protection, management and planning contained in other existing or future binding national or international instruments.

Article 13 – Signature, ratification and entry into force

1 This Convention shall be open for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe. It shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2 The Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which ten member States of the Council of Europe have expressed their consent to be bound by the Convention in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

3 In respect of any signatory State which subsequently expresses its consent to be bound by it, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of the deposit of the instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval.

Article 14– Accession

1 After the entry into force of this Convention, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may invite the European Community and any European State which is not a member of the Council of Europe, to accede to the Convention by a majority decision as provided in Article 20.d of the Council of Europe Statute, and by the unanimous vote of the States parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers.

2 In respect of any acceding State, or the European Community in the event of its accession, this Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of deposit of the instrument of accession with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Article 15 –Territorial application

1 Any State or the European Community may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, specify the territory or territories to which the Convention shall apply.

2 Any Party may, at any later date, by declaration addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, extend the application of this Convention to any other territory specified in the declaration. The Convention shall take effect in respect of such territory on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of receipt of the declaration by the Secretary General.

3 Any declaration made under the two paragraphs above may, in respect of any territory mentioned in such declaration, be withdrawn by notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Such withdrawal

shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 16 – Denunciation

1 Any Party may, at any time, denounce this Convention by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

2 Such denunciation shall become effective on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary General.

Article 17 – Amendments

1 Any Party or the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 may propose amendments to this Convention.

2 Any proposal for amendment shall be notified to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe who shall communicate it to the member States of the Council of Europe, to the others Parties, and to any European non-member State which has been invited to accede to this Convention in accordance with the provisions of Article 14.

3 The Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 shall examine any amendment proposed and submit the text adopted by a majority of three-quarters of the Parties' representatives to the Committee of Ministers for adoption. Following its adoption by the Committee of Ministers by the majority provided for in Article 20.d of the Statute of the Council of Europe and by the unanimous vote of the States parties entitled to hold seats in the Committee of Ministers, the text shall be forwarded to the Parties for acceptance.

4 Any amendment shall enter into force in respect of the Parties which have accepted it on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which three Council of Europe member States have informed the Secretary General of their acceptance.

In respect of any Party which subsequently accepts it, such amendment shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of a period of three months after the date on which the said Party has informed the Secretary General of its acceptance.

Article 18 – Notifications

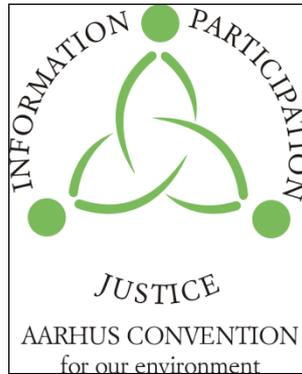
The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall notify the member States of the Council of Europe, any State or the European Community having acceded to this Convention, of:

- a any signature;
- b the deposit of any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession;
- c any date of entry into force of this Convention in accordance with Articles 13, 14 and 15;
- d any declaration made under Article 15;
- e any denunciation made under Article 16;
- f any proposal for amendment, any amendment adopted pursuant to Article 17 and the date on which it comes into force;
- g any other act, notification, information or communication relating to this Convention.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done at Florence, this 20th day of October 2000, in English and in French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe and to any State or to the European Community invited to accede to this Convention.

Appendix B: Full Text of the UNECE Aarhus Convention



**CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND
ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
done at Aarhus, Denmark, on 25 June 1998**

The Parties to this Convention,

- Recalling principle I 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,
- Affirming the need to protect, preserve and improve the state of the environment and to ensure sustainable and environmentally sound development,
- Recognising 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,
- Recognising 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,
- Recognising 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,
- Recognising the desirability of transparency in all branches of government and inviting legislative bodies to implement the principles of this Convention in their proceedings,
- Recognising 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,
- Recognising further the importance of the respective roles that individual citizens, non-governmental organisations and the private sector can play in environmental protection,
- Desiring to promote environmental education to further the understanding of the environment and sustainable development and to encourage widespread public awareness of, and participation in, decisions affecting the environment and sustainable development,
- Noting, in this context, the importance of making use of the media and of electronic or other, future forms of communication,
- Recognising the importance of fully integrating environmental considerations in governmental decision-making and the consequent need for public authorities to be in possession of accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date environmental information,
- Acknowledging that public authorities hold environmental information in the public interest,
- Concerned that effective judicial mechanisms should be accessible to the public, including organisations, so that its legitimate interests are protected and the law is enforced,
- Noting the importance of adequate product information being provided to consumers to enable them to make informed environmental choices,
- Recognising the concern of the public about the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment and the need for increased transparency and greater public participation in decision-making in this field,
- Convinced that the implementation of this Convention will contribute to strengthening democracy in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE),

- Conscious of the role played in this respect by ECE and recalling, *inter alia*, the ECE Guidelines on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making endorsed in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 25 October 1995,
- Bearing in mind the relevant provisions in the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, done at Espoo, Finland, on 25 February 1991, and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, both done at Helsinki on 17 March 1992, and other regional conventions,
- Conscious that the adoption of this Convention will have contributed to the further strengthening of the "Environment for Europe" process and to the results of the Fourth Ministerial Conference in Aarhus, Denmark, in June 1998,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

OBJECTIVE

In order to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, each Party shall guarantee the rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

Article 2

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Convention,

1. "Party" means, unless the text otherwise indicates, a Contracting Party to this Convention;
2. "Public authority" means:
 - (a) Government at national, regional and other level;
 - (b) Natural or legal persons performing public administrative functions under national law, including specific duties, activities or services in relation to the environment;
 - (c) Any other natural or legal persons having public responsibilities or functions, or providing public services, in relation to the environment, under the control of a body or person falling within subparagraphs (a) or (b) above;
 - (d) The institutions of any regional economic integration organization referred to in article 17 which is a Party to this Convention. This definition does not include bodies or institutions acting in a judicial or legislative capacity;
3. "Environmental information" means any information in written, visual, aural, electronic or any other material form on:
 - (a) The state of elements of the environment, such as air and atmosphere, water, soil, land, landscape and natural sites, biological diversity and its components, including genetically modified organisms, and the interaction among these elements;
 - (b) Factors, such as substances, energy, noise and radiation, and activities or measures, including administrative measures, environmental agreements, policies, legislation, plans and programmes, affecting or likely to affect the elements of the environment within the scope of subparagraph (a) above, and cost-benefit and other economic analyses and assumptions used in environmental decision-making;
 - (c) The state of human health and safety, conditions of human life, cultural sites and built structures, inasmuch as they are or may be affected by the state of the elements of the environment or, through these elements, by the factors, activities or measures referred to in subparagraph (b) above;
4. "The public" means one or more natural or legal persons, and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organisations or groups;
5. "The public concerned" means the public affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the environmental decision-making; for the purposes of this definition, non-governmental organisations promoting environmental protection and meeting any requirements under national law shall be deemed to have an interest.

Article 3

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Each Party shall take the necessary legislative, regulatory and other measures, including measures to achieve compatibility between the provisions implementing the information, public participation and access-to-justice provisions in this Convention, as well as proper enforcement measures, to establish and maintain a clear, transparent and consistent framework to implement the provisions of this Convention.
2. Each Party shall endeavour to ensure that officials and authorities assist and provide guidance to the public in seeking access to information, in facilitating participation in decision-making and in seeking access to justice in environmental matters.
3. Each Party shall promote environmental education and environmental awareness among the public, especially on how to obtain access to information, to participate in decision-making and to obtain access to justice in environmental matters.
4. Each Party shall provide for appropriate recognition of and support to associations, organisations or groups promoting environmental protection and ensure that its national legal system is consistent with this obligation.
5. The provisions of this Convention shall not affect the right of a Party to maintain or introduce measures providing for broader access to information, more extensive public participation in decision-making and wider access to justice in environmental matters than required by this Convention.
6. This Convention shall not require any derogation from existing rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.
7. Each Party shall promote the application of the principles of this Convention in international environmental decision-making processes and within the framework of international organisations in matters relating to the environment.
8. Each Party shall ensure that persons exercising their rights in conformity with the provisions of this Convention shall not be penalised, persecuted or harassed in any way for their involvement. This provision shall not affect the powers of national courts to award reasonable costs in judicial proceedings.
9. Within the scope of the relevant provisions of this Convention, the public shall have access to information, have the possibility to participate in decision-making and have access to justice in environmental matters without discrimination as to citizenship, nationality or domicile and, in the case of a legal person, without discrimination as to where it has its registered seat or an effective centre of its activities.

Article 4

ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Each Party shall ensure that, subject to the following paragraphs of this article, public authorities, in response to a request for environmental information, make such information available to the public, within the framework of national legislation, including, where requested and subject to subparagraph (b) below, copies of the actual documentation containing or comprising such information:
 - (a) Without an interest having to be stated;
 - (b) In the form requested unless:
 - (i) It is reasonable for the public authority to make it available in another form, in which case reasons shall be given for making it available in that form; or
 - (ii) The information is already publicly available in another form.
2. The environmental information referred to in paragraph 1 above shall be made available as soon as possible and at the latest within one month after the request has been submitted, unless the volume and the complexity of the information justify an extension of this period up to two months after the request. The applicant shall be informed of any extension and of the reasons justifying it.
3. A request for environmental information may be refused if:
 - (a) The public authority to which the request is addressed does not hold the environmental information requested;
 - (b) The request is manifestly unreasonable or formulated in too general a manner; or
 - (c) The request concerns material in the course of completion or concerns internal communications of public authorities where such an exemption is provided for in national law or customary practice, taking into account the public interest served by disclosure.

4. A request for environmental information may be refused if the disclosure would adversely affect:
 - (a) The confidentiality of the proceedings of public authorities, where such confidentiality is provided for under national law;
 - (b) International relations, national defence or public security;
 - (c) The course of justice, the ability of a person to receive a fair trial or the ability of a public authority to conduct an enquiry of a criminal or disciplinary nature;
 - (d) The confidentiality of commercial and industrial information, where such confidentiality is protected by law in order to protect a legitimate economic interest. Within this framework, information on emissions which is relevant for the protection of the environment shall be disclosed;
 - (e) Intellectual property rights;
 - (f) The confidentiality of personal data and/or files relating to a natural person where that person has not consented to the disclosure of the information to the public, where such confidentiality is provided for in national law;
 - (g) The interests of a third party which has supplied the information requested without that party being under or capable of being put under a legal obligation to do so, and where that party does not consent to the release of the material; or
 - (h) The environment to which the information relates, such as the breeding sites of rare species.

The aforementioned grounds for refusal shall be interpreted in a restrictive way, taking into account the public interest served by disclosure and taking into account whether the information requested relates to emissions into the environment.

5. Where a public authority does not hold the environmental information requested, this public authority shall, as promptly as possible, inform the applicant of the public authority to which it believes it is possible to apply for the information requested or transfer the request to that authority and inform the applicant accordingly.
6. Each Party shall ensure that, if information exempted from disclosure under paragraphs 3 (c) and 4 above can be separated out without prejudice to the confidentiality of the information exempted, public authorities make available the remainder of the environmental information that has been requested.
7. A refusal of a request shall be in writing if the request was in writing or the applicant so requests. A refusal shall state the reasons for the refusal and give information on access to the review procedure provided for in accordance with article 9. The refusal shall be made as soon as possible and at the latest within one month, unless the complexity of the information justifies an extension of this period up to two months after the request. The applicant shall be informed of any extension and of the reasons justifying it.
8. Each Party may allow its public authorities to make a charge for supplying information, but such charge shall not exceed a reasonable amount. Public authorities intending to make such a charge for supplying information shall make available to applicants a schedule of charges which may be levied, indicating the circumstances in which they may be levied or waived and when the supply of information is conditional on the advance payment of such a charge.

Article 5

COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Each Party shall ensure that:
 - (a) Public authorities possess and update environmental information which is relevant to their functions;
 - (b) Mandatory systems are established so that there is an adequate flow of information to public authorities about proposed and existing activities which may significantly affect the environment;
 - (c) In the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment, whether caused by human activities or due to natural causes, all information which could enable the public to take measures to prevent or mitigate harm arising from the threat and is held by a public authority is disseminated immediately and without delay to members of the public who may be affected.
2. Each Party shall ensure that, within the framework of national legislation, the way in which public authorities make environmental information available to the public is transparent and that environmental information is effectively accessible, inter alia, by:

- (a) Providing sufficient information to the public about the type and scope of environmental information held by the relevant public authorities, the basic terms and conditions under which such information is made available and accessible, and the process by which it can be obtained;
 - (b) Establishing and maintaining practical arrangements, such as:
 - (i). Publicly accessible lists, registers or files;
 - (ii). Requiring officials to support the public in seeking access to information under this Convention; and
 - (iii). The identification of points of contact; and
 - (c) Providing access to the environmental information contained in lists, registers or files as referred to in subparagraph (b) (i) above free of charge.
3. Each Party shall ensure that environmental information progressively becomes available in electronic databases which are easily accessible to the public through public telecommunications networks. Information accessible in this form should include:
 - (a) Reports on the state of the environment, as referred to in paragraph 4 below;
 - (b) Texts of legislation on or relating to the environment;
 - (c) As appropriate, policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements; and
 - (d) Other information, to the extent that the availability of such information in this form would facilitate the application of national law implementing this Convention, provided that such information is already available in electronic form.
4. Each Party shall, at regular intervals not exceeding three or four years, publish and disseminate a national report on the state of the environment, including information on the quality of the environment and information on pressures on the environment.
5. Each Party shall take measures within the framework of its legislation for the purpose of disseminating, inter alia:
 - (a) Legislation and policy documents such as documents on strategies, policies, programmes and action plans relating to the environment, and progress reports on their implementation, prepared at various levels of government;
 - (b) International treaties, conventions and agreements on environmental issues; and
 - (c) Other significant international documents on environmental issues, as appropriate.
6. Each Party shall encourage operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their activities and products, where appropriate within the framework of voluntary eco-labelling or eco-auditing schemes or by other means.
7. Each Party shall:
 - (a) Publish the facts and analyses of facts which it considers relevant and important in framing major environmental policy proposals;
 - (b) Publish, or otherwise make accessible, available explanatory material on its dealings with the public in matters falling within the scope of this Convention; and
 - (c) Provide in an appropriate form information on the performance of public functions or the provision of public services relating to the environment by government at all levels.
8. Each Party shall develop mechanisms with a view to ensuring that sufficient product information is made available to the public in a manner which enables consumers to make informed environmental choices.
9. Each Party shall take steps to establish progressively, taking into account international processes where appropriate, a coherent, nationwide system of pollution inventories or registers on a structured, computerised and publicly accessible database compiled through standardised reporting. Such a system may include inputs, releases and transfers of a specified range of substances and products, including water, energy and resource use, from a specified range of activities to environmental media and to on-site and offsite treatment and disposal sites.
10. Nothing in this article may prejudice the right of Parties to refuse to disclose certain environmental information in accordance with article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4.

Article 6

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

1. Each Party:
 - (a) Shall apply the provisions of this article with respect to decisions on whether to permit proposed activities listed in annex I;
 - (b) Shall, in accordance with its national law, also apply the provisions of this article to decisions on proposed activities not listed in annex I which may have a significant effect on the environment. To this end, Parties shall determine whether such a proposed activity is subject to these provisions; and
 - (c) May decide, on a case-by-case basis if so provided under national law, not to apply the provisions of this article to proposed activities serving national defence purposes, if that Party deems that such application would have an adverse effect on these purposes.
2. The public concerned shall be informed, either by public notice or individually as appropriate, early in an environmental decision-making procedure, and in an adequate, timely and effective manner, inter alia, of:
 - (a) The proposed activity and the application on which a decision will be taken;
 - (b) The nature of possible decisions or the draft decision;
 - (c) The public authority responsible for making the decision;
 - (d) The envisaged procedure, including, as and when this information can be provided:
 - (i). The commencement of the procedure;
 - (ii). The opportunities for the public to participate;
 - (iii) The time and venue of any envisaged public hearing;
 - (iv) An indication of the public authority from which relevant information can be obtained and where the relevant information has been deposited for examination by the public;
 - (v) An indication of the relevant public authority or any other official body to which comments or questions can be submitted and of the time schedule for transmittal of comments or questions; and
 - (vi) An indication of what environmental information relevant to the proposed activity is available; and (e) The fact that the activity is subject to a national or transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure.
3. The public participation procedures shall include reasonable time-frames for the different phases, allowing sufficient time for informing the public in accordance with paragraph 2 above and for the public to prepare and participate effectively during the environmental decision-making.
4. Each Party shall provide for early public participation, when all options are open and effective public participation can take place.
5. Each Party should, where appropriate, encourage prospective applicants to identify the public concerned, to enter into discussions, and to provide information regarding the objectives of their application before applying for a permit.
6. Each Party shall require the competent public authorities to give the public concerned access for examination, upon request where so required under national law, free of charge and as soon as it becomes available, to all information relevant to the decision-making referred to in this article that is available at the time of the public participation procedure, without prejudice to the right of Parties to refuse to disclose certain information in accordance with article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4. The relevant information shall include at least, and without prejudice to the provisions of article 4:
 - (a) A description of the site and the physical and technical characteristics of the proposed activity, including an estimate of the expected residues and emissions;
 - (b) A description of the significant effects of the proposed activity on the environment;
 - (c) A description of the measures envisaged to prevent and/or reduce the effects, including emissions;
 - (d) A non-technical summary of the above;
 - (e) An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant; and

- (f) In accordance with national legislation, the main reports and advice issued to the public authority at the time when the public concerned shall be informed in accordance with paragraph 2 above.
7. Procedures for public participation shall allow the public to submit, in writing or, as appropriate, at a public hearing or inquiry with the applicant, any comments, information, analyses or opinions that it considers relevant to the proposed activity.
 8. Each Party shall ensure that in the decision due account is taken of the outcome of the public participation.
 9. Each Party shall ensure that, when the decision has been taken by the public authority, the public is promptly informed of the decision in accordance with the appropriate procedures. Each Party shall make accessible to the public the text of the decision along with the reasons and considerations on which the decision is based.
 10. Each Party shall ensure that, when a public authority reconsiders or updates the operating conditions for an activity referred to in paragraph 1, the provisions of paragraphs 2 to 9 of this article are applied *mutatis mutandis*, and where appropriate.
 11. Each Party shall, within the framework of its national law, apply, to the extent feasible and appropriate, provisions of this article to decisions on whether to permit the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into the environment.

Article 7

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONCERNING PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Each Party shall make appropriate practical and/or other provisions for the public to participate during the preparation of plans and programmes relating to the environment, within a transparent and fair framework, having provided the necessary information to the public. Within this framework, article 6, paragraphs 3, 4 and 8, shall be applied. The public which may participate shall be identified by the relevant public authority, taking into account the objectives of this Convention. To the extent appropriate, each Party shall endeavour to provide opportunities for public participation in the preparation of policies relating to the environment.

Article 8

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING THE PREPARATION OF EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS AND/OR GENERALLY APPLICABLE LEGALLY BINDING NORMATIVE INSTRUMENTS

Each Party shall strive to promote effective public participation at an appropriate stage, and while options are still open, during the preparation by public authorities of executive regulations and other generally applicable legally binding rules that may have a significant effect on the environment. To this end, the following steps should be taken:

- (a) Time-frames sufficient for effective participation should be fixed;
- (b) Draft rules should be published or otherwise made publicly available; and
- (c) The public should be given the opportunity to comment, directly or through representative consultative bodies.

The result of the public participation shall be taken into account as far as possible.

Article 9

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

1. Each Party shall, within the framework of its national legislation, ensure that any person who considers that his or her request for information under article 4 has been ignored, wrongfully refused, whether in part or in full, inadequately answered, or otherwise not dealt with in accordance with the provisions of that article, has access to a review procedure before a court of law or another independent and impartial body established by law. In the circumstances where a Party provides for such a review by a court of law, it shall ensure that such a person also has access to an expeditious procedure established by law that is free of charge or inexpensive for reconsideration by a public authority or review by an independent and impartial body other than a court of law. Final decisions under this paragraph 1 shall be binding on the public authority holding the information. Reasons shall be stated in writing, at least where access to information is refused under this paragraph.
2. Each Party shall, within the framework of its national legislation, ensure that members of the public concerned
 - (a) Having a sufficient interest

or, alternatively,

- (b) Maintaining impairment of a right, where the administrative procedural law of a Party requires this as a precondition,

have access to a review procedure before a court of law and/or another independent and impartial body established by law, to challenge the substantive and procedural legality of any decision, act or omission subject to the provisions of article 6 and, where so provided for under national law and without prejudice to paragraph 3 below, of other relevant provisions of this Convention.

What constitutes a sufficient interest and impairment of a right shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of national law and consistently with the objective of giving the public concerned wide access to justice within the scope of this Convention. To this end, the interest of any non-governmental organisation meeting the requirements referred to in article 2, paragraph 5, shall be deemed sufficient for the purpose of subparagraph (a) above. Such organisations shall also be deemed to have rights capable of being impaired for the purpose of subparagraph (b) above.

The provisions of this paragraph 2 shall not exclude the possibility of a preliminary review procedure before an administrative authority and shall not affect the requirement of exhaustion of administrative review procedures prior to recourse to judicial review procedures, where such a requirement exists under national law.

3. In addition and without prejudice to the review procedures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, each Party shall ensure that, where they meet the criteria, if any, laid down in its national law, members of the public have access to administrative or judicial procedures to challenge acts and omissions by private persons and public authorities which contravene provisions of its national law relating to the environment.
4. In addition and without prejudice to paragraph 1 above, the procedures referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above shall provide adequate and effective remedies, including injunctive relief as appropriate, and be fair, equitable, timely and not prohibitively expensive. Decisions under this article shall be given or recorded in writing. Decisions of courts, and whenever possible of other bodies, shall be publicly accessible.
5. In order to further the effectiveness of the provisions of this article, each Party shall ensure that information is provided to the public on access to administrative and judicial review procedures and shall consider the establishment of appropriate assistance mechanisms to remove or reduce financial and other barriers to access to justice.

Article 10

MEETING OF THE PARTIES

1. The first meeting of the Parties shall be convened no later than one year after the date of the entry into force of this Convention. Thereafter, an ordinary meeting of the Parties shall be held at least once every two years, unless otherwise decided by the Parties, or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of the request being communicated to all Parties by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, the said request is supported by at least one third of the Parties.
2. At their meetings, the Parties shall keep under continuous review the implementation of this Convention on the basis of regular reporting by the Parties, and, with this purpose in mind, shall:
 - (a) Review the policies for and legal and methodological approaches to access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, with a view to further improving them;
 - (b) Exchange information regarding experience gained in concluding and implementing bilateral and multilateral agreements or other arrangements having relevance to the purposes of this Convention and to which one or more of the Parties are a party;
 - (c) Seek, where appropriate, the services of relevant ECE bodies and other competent international bodies and specific committees in all aspects pertinent to the achievement of the purposes of this Convention;
 - (d) Establish any subsidiary bodies as they deem necessary;
 - (e) Prepare, where appropriate, protocols to this Convention;
 - (f) Consider and adopt proposals for amendments to this Convention in accordance with the provisions of article 14;
 - (g) Consider and undertake any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the purposes of this Convention;
 - (h) At their first meeting, consider and by consensus adopt rules of procedure for their meetings and the meetings of subsidiary bodies;
 - (i) At their first meeting, review their experience in implementing the provisions of article 5, paragraph 9, and consider what steps are necessary to develop further the system referred to in that paragraph, taking into account international processes and developments, including the elaboration of an appropriate instrument concerning pollution release and transfer registers or inventories which could be annexed to this Convention.

3. The Meeting of the Parties may, as necessary, consider establishing financial arrangements on a consensus basis.
4. The United Nations, its specialised agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State or regional economic integration organisation entitled under article 17 to sign this Convention but which is not a Party to this Convention, and any intergovernmental organisation qualified in the fields to which this Convention relates, shall be entitled to participate as observers in the meetings of the Parties.
5. Any non-governmental organisation, qualified in the fields to which this Convention relates, which has informed the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe of its wish to be represented at a meeting of the Parties shall be entitled to participate as an observer unless at least one third of the Parties present in the meeting raise objections.
6. For the purposes of paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the rules of procedure referred to in paragraph 2 (h) above shall provide for practical arrangements for the admittance procedure and other relevant terms.

Article 11

RIGHT TO VOTE

1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 below, each Party to this Convention shall have one vote.
2. Regional economic integration organisations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties to this Convention. Such organisations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

Article 12

SECRETARIAT

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe shall carry out the following secretariat functions:

- (a) The convening and preparing of meetings of the Parties;
- (b) The transmission to the Parties of reports and other information received in accordance with the provisions of this Convention; and
- (c) Such other functions as may be determined by the Parties.

Article 13

ANNEXES

The annexes to this Convention shall constitute an integral part thereof.

Article 14

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

1. Any Party may propose amendments to this Convention.
2. The text of any proposed amendment to this Convention shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, who shall communicate it to all Parties at least ninety days before the meeting of the Parties at which it is proposed for adoption.
3. The Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on any proposed amendment to this Convention by consensus. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted, and no agreement reached, the amendment shall as a last resort be adopted by a three-fourths majority vote of the Parties present and voting at the meeting.
4. Amendments to this Convention adopted in accordance with paragraph 3 above shall be communicated by the Depositary to all Parties for ratification, approval or acceptance. Amendments to this Convention other than those to an annex shall enter into force for Parties having ratified, approved or accepted them on the ninetieth day after the receipt by the Depositary of notification of their ratification, approval or acceptance by at least three fourths of these Parties. Thereafter they shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day after that Party deposits its instrument of ratification, approval or acceptance of the amendments.
5. Any Party that is unable to approve an amendment to an annex to this Convention shall so notify the Depositary in writing within twelve months from the date of the communication of the adoption. The Depositary shall without delay notify all Parties of any such notification received. A Party may at any time substitute an acceptance for its previous notification and, upon deposit of an instrument of acceptance with the Depositary, the amendments to such an annex shall become effective for that Party.

6. On the expiry of twelve months from the date of its communication by the Depositary as provided for in paragraph 4 above an amendment to an annex shall become effective for those Parties which have not submitted a notification to the Depositary in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 above, provided that not more than one third of the Parties have submitted such a notification.
7. For the purposes of this article, "Parties present and voting" means Parties present and casting an affirmative or negative vote.

Article 15

REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE

The Meeting of the Parties shall establish, on a consensus basis, optional arrangements of a non-confrontational, non-judicial and consultative nature for reviewing compliance with the provisions of this Convention.

These arrangements shall allow for appropriate public involvement and may include the option of considering communications from members of the public on matters related to this Convention.

Article 16

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. If a dispute arises between two or more Parties about the interpretation or application of this Convention, they shall seek a solution by negotiation or by any other means of dispute settlement acceptable to the parties to the dispute.
2. When signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Convention, or at any time thereafter, a Party may declare in writing to the Depositary that, for a dispute not resolved in accordance with paragraph 1 above, it accepts one or both of the following means of dispute settlement as compulsory in relation to any Party accepting the same obligation:
 - (a) Submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice;
 - (b) Arbitration in accordance with the procedure set out in annex II.
3. If the parties to the dispute have accepted both means of dispute settlement referred to in paragraph 2 above, the dispute may be submitted only to the International Court of Justice, unless the parties agree otherwise.

Article 17

SIGNATURE

This Convention shall be open for signature at Aarhus (Denmark) on 25 June 1998, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 21 December 1998, by States members of the Economic Commission for Europe as well as States having consultative status with the Economic Commission for Europe pursuant to paragraphs 8 and 11 of Economic and Social Council resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947, and by regional economic integration organizations constituted by sovereign States members of the Economic Commission for Europe to which their member States have transferred competence over matters governed by this Convention, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of these matters.

Article 18

DEPOSITARY

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall act as the Depositary of this Convention.

Article 19

RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL AND ACCESSION

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by signatory States and regional economic integration organisations.
2. This Convention shall be open for accession as from 22 December 1998 by the States and regional economic integration organisations referred to in article 17.
3. Any other State, not referred to in paragraph 2 above, that is a Member of the United Nations may accede to the Convention upon approval by the Meeting of the Parties.
4. Any organisation referred to in article 17 which becomes a Party to this Convention without any of its member States being a Party shall be bound by all the obligations under this Convention. If one or more of such an organisation's member States is a

Party to this Convention, the organisation and its member States shall decide on their respective responsibilities for the performance of their obligations under this Convention. In such cases, the organisation and the member States shall not be entitled to exercise rights under this Convention concurrently.

5. In their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the regional economic integration organisations referred to in article 17 shall declare the extent of their competence with respect to the matters governed by this Convention. These organisations shall also inform the Depositary of any substantial modification to the extent of their competence.

Article 20

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the sixteenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1 above, any instrument deposited by a regional economic integration organisation shall not be counted as additional to those deposited by States members of such an organisation.
3. For each State or organisation referred to in article 17 which ratifies, accepts or approves this Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of the sixteenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State or organisation of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Article 21

WITHDRAWAL

At any time after three years from the date on which this Convention has come into force with respect to a Party, that Party may withdraw from the Convention by giving written notification to the Depositary. Any such withdrawal shall take effect on the ninetieth day after the date of its receipt by the Depositary.

Article 22

AUTHENTIC TEXTS

The original of this Convention, of which the English, French and Russian texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

DONE at Aarhus (Denmark), this twenty-fifth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight.

Annex I

LIST OF ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 6, PARAGRAPH 1 (a)

1. Energy sector:

- Mineral oil and gas refineries;
- Installations for gasification and liquefaction;
- Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat input of 50 megawatts (MW) or more;
- Coke ovens;
- Nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors including the dismantling or decommissioning of such power stations or reactors 1/ (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kW continuous thermal load);
- Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel;
- Installations designed:
 - For the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel;
 - For the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste;
 - For the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel;
 - Solely for the final disposal of radioactive waste;
 - Solely for the storage (planned for more than 10 years) of irradiated nuclear fuels or radioactive waste in a different site than the production site.

2. Production and processing of metals:

- Metal ore (including sulphide ore) roasting or sintering installations;
- Installations for the production of pig-iron or steel (primary or secondary fusion) including continuous casting, with a capacity exceeding 2.5 tons per hour;
- Installations for the processing of ferrous metals:
 - (i). Hot-rolling mills with a capacity exceeding 20 tons of crude steel per hour;
 - (ii). Smitheries with hammers the energy of which exceeds 50 kilojoules per hammer, where the calorific power used exceeds 20 MW;
 - (iii). Application of protective fused metal coats with an input exceeding 2 tons of crude steel per hour;
- Ferrous metal foundries with a production capacity exceeding 20 tons per day;
- Installations:
 - (i). For the production of non-ferrous crude metals from ore, concentrates or secondary raw materials by metallurgical, chemical or electrolytic processes;
 - (ii). For the smelting, including the alloying, of non-ferrous metals, including recovered products (refining, foundry casting, etc.), with a melting capacity exceeding 4 tons per day for lead and cadmium or 20 tons per day for all other metals;
- Installations for surface treatment of metals and plastic materials using an electrolytic or chemical process where the volume of the treatment vats exceeds 30 m³.

3. Mineral industry:

- Installations for the production of cement clinker in rotary kilns with a production capacity exceeding 500 tons per day or lime in rotary kilns with a production capacity exceeding 50 tons per day or in other furnaces with a production capacity exceeding 50 tons per day;
- Installations for the production of asbestos and the manufacture of asbestos-based products;
- Installations for the manufacture of glass including glass fibre with a melting capacity exceeding 20 tons per day;

- Installations for melting mineral substances including the production of mineral fibres with a melting capacity exceeding 20 tons per day;
 - Installations for the manufacture of ceramic products by firing, in particular roofing tiles, bricks, refractory bricks, tiles, stoneware or porcelain, with a production capacity exceeding 75 tons per day, and/or with a kiln capacity exceeding 4 m³ and with a setting density per kiln exceeding 300 kg/m³.
4. Chemical industry: Production within the meaning of the categories of activities contained in this paragraph means the production on an industrial scale by chemical processing of substances or groups of substances listed in subparagraphs (a) to (g):
- (a) Chemical installations for the production of basic organic chemicals, such as:
- (i). Simple hydrocarbons (linear or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic or aromatic);
 - (ii). Oxygen-containing hydrocarbons such as alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, carboxylic acids, esters, acetates, ethers, peroxides, epoxy resins;
 - (iii). Sulphurous hydrocarbons;
 - (iv). Nitrogenous hydrocarbons such as amines, amides, nitrous compounds, nitro compounds or nitrate compounds, nitriles, cyanates, isocyanates;
 - (v). Phosphorus-containing hydrocarbons;
 - (vi). Halogenic hydrocarbons;
 - (vii). Organometallic compounds;
 - (viii). Basic plastic materials (polymers, synthetic fibres and cellulose-based fibres);
 - (ix). Synthetic rubbers;
 - (x). Dyes and pigments;
 - (xi). Surface-active agents and surfactants;
- (b) Chemical installations for the production of basic inorganic chemicals, such as:
- (i). Gases, such as ammonia, chlorine or hydrogen chloride, fluorine or hydrogen fluoride, carbon oxides, sulphur compounds, nitrogen oxides, hydrogen, sulphur dioxide, carbonyl chloride;
 - (ii). Acids, such as chromic acid, hydrofluoric acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, oleum, sulphurous acids;
 - (iii). Bases, such as ammonium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide;
 - (iv). Salts, such as ammonium chloride, potassium chlorate, potassium carbonate, sodium carbonate, perborate, silver nitrate;
 - (v). Non-metals, metal oxides or other inorganic compounds such as calcium carbide, silicon, silicon carbide;
- (c) Chemical installations for the production of phosphorous-,nitrogen- or potassium-based fertilisers (simple or compound fertilisers);
- (d) Chemical installations for the production of basic plant health products and of biocides;
- (e) Installations using a chemical or biological process for the production of basic pharmaceutical products;
- (f) Chemical installations for the production of explosives;
- (g) Chemical installations in which chemical or biological processing is used for the production of protein feed additives, ferments and other protein substances.
5. Waste management:
- Installations for the incineration, recovery, chemical treatment or landfill of hazardous waste;
 - Installations for the incineration of municipal waste with a capacity exceeding 3 tons per hour;
 - Installations for the disposal of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 50 tons per day;

- Landfills receiving more than 10 tons per day or with a total capacity exceeding 25 000 tons, excluding landfills of inert waste.
6. Waste-water treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150 000 population equivalent.
 7. Industrial plants for the:
 - (a) Production of pulp from timber or similar fibrous materials;
 - (b) Production of paper and board with a production capacity exceeding 20 tons per day.
 8.
 - (a) Construction of lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports 2/ with a basic runway length of 2 100 m or more;
 - (b) Construction of motorways and express roads; 3/
 - (c) Construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or realignment and/or widening of an existing road of two lanes or less so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new road, or realigned and/or widened section of road, would be 10 km or more in a continuous length.
 9.
 - (a) Inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1 350 tons;
 - (b) Trading ports, piers for loading and unloading connected to land and outside ports (excluding ferry piers) which can take vessels of over 1 350 tons.
 10. Groundwater abstraction or artificial groundwater recharge schemes where the annual volume of water abstracted or recharged is equivalent to or exceeds 10 million cubic metres.
 11.
 - (a) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where this transfer aims at preventing possible shortages of water and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 100 million cubic metres/year;
 - (b) In all other cases, works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where the multiannual average flow of the basin of abstraction exceeds 2 000 million cubic metres/year and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 5% of this flow.
 - (c) In both cases transfers of piped drinking water are excluded.
 12. Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500 tons/day in the case of petroleum and 500,000 cubic metres/day in the case of gas.
 13. Dams and other installations designed for the holding back or permanent storage of water, where a new or additional amount of water held back or stored exceeds 10 million cubic metres.
 14. Pipelines for the transport of gas, oil or chemicals with a diameter of more than 800 mm and a length of more than 40 km.
 15. Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs with more than:
 - (a) 40 000 places for poultry;
 - (b) 2 000 places for production pigs (over 30 kg); or
 - (c) 750 places for sows.
 16. Quarries and opencast mining where the surface of the site exceeds 25 hectares, or peat extraction, where the surface of the site exceeds 150 hectares.
 17. Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV or more and a length of more than 15 km.
 18. Installations for the storage of petroleum, petrochemical, or chemical products with a capacity of 200 000 tons or more.
 19. Other activities:
 - Plants for the pretreatment (operations such as washing, bleaching, mercerization) or dyeing of fibres or textiles where the treatment capacity exceeds 10 tons per day;
 - Plants for the tanning of hides and skins where the treatment capacity exceeds 12 tons of finished products per day;

- (a) Slaughterhouses with a carcass production capacity greater than 50 tons per day;
 - (b) Treatment and processing intended for the production of food products from:
 - (i). Animal raw materials (other than milk) with a finished product production capacity greater than 75 tons per day;
 - (ii). Vegetable raw materials with a finished product production capacity greater than 300 tons per day (average value on a quarterly basis);
 - (c) Treatment and processing of milk, the quantity of milk received being greater than 200 tons per day (average value on an annual basis);
 - Installations for the disposal or recycling of animal carcasses and animal waste with a treatment capacity exceeding 10 tons per day;
 - Installations for the surface treatment of substances, objects or products using organic solvents, in particular for dressing, printing, coating, degreasing, waterproofing, sizing, painting, cleaning or impregnating, with a consumption capacity of more than 150 kg per hour or more than 200 tons per year;
 - Installations for the production of carbon (hard-burnt coal) or electrographite by means of incineration or graphitization.
20. Any activity not covered by paragraphs 1-19 above where public participation is provided for under an environmental impact assessment procedure in accordance with national legislation.
21. The provision of article 6, paragraph 1 (a) of this Convention, does not apply to any of the above projects undertaken exclusively or mainly for research, development and testing of new methods or products for less than two years unless they would be likely to cause a significant adverse effect on environment or health.
22. Any change to or extension of activities, where such a change or extension in itself meets the criteria/thresholds set out in this annex, shall be subject to article 6, paragraph 1 (a) of this Convention. Any other change or extension of activities shall be subject to article 6, paragraph 1 (b) of this Convention.

Notes

- 1/ Nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors cease to be such an installation when all nuclear fuel and other radioactively contaminated elements have been removed permanently from the installation site.
- 2/ For the purposes of this Convention, "airport" means an airport which complies with the definition in the 1944 Chicago Convention setting up the International Civil Aviation Organization (Annex 14).
- 3/ For the purposes of this Convention, "express road" means a road which complies with the definition in the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries of 15 November 1975.

Annex II

ARBITRATION

1. In the event of a dispute being submitted for arbitration pursuant to article 16, paragraph 2, of this Convention, a party or parties shall notify the secretariat of the subject matter of arbitration and indicate, in particular, the articles of this Convention whose interpretation or application is at issue. The secretariat shall forward the information received to all Parties to this Convention.
2. The arbitral tribunal shall consist of three members. Both the claimant party or parties and the other party or parties to the dispute shall appoint an arbitrator, and the two arbitrators so appointed shall designate by common agreement the third arbitrator, who shall be the president of the arbitral tribunal. The latter shall not be a national of one of the parties to the dispute, nor have his or her usual place of residence in the territory of one of these parties, nor be employed by any of them, nor have dealt with the case in any other capacity.
3. If the president of the arbitral tribunal has not been designated within two months of the appointment of the second arbitrator, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe shall, at the request of either party to the dispute, designate the president within a further two-month period.
4. If one of the parties to the dispute does not appoint an arbitrator within two months of the receipt of the request, the other party may so inform the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, who shall designate the president of the arbitral tribunal within a further two-month period. Upon designation, the president of the arbitral tribunal shall request the party which has not appointed an arbitrator to do so within two months. If it fails to do so within that period, the

president shall so inform the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, who shall make this appointment within a further two-month period.

5. The arbitral tribunal shall render its decision in accordance with international law and the provisions of this Convention.
6. Any arbitral tribunal constituted under the provisions set out in this annex shall draw up its own rules of procedure.
7. The decisions of the arbitral tribunal, both on procedure and on substance, shall be taken by majority vote of its members.
8. The tribunal may take all appropriate measures to establish the facts.
9. The parties to the dispute shall facilitate the work of the arbitral tribunal and, in particular, using all means at their disposal, shall:
 - (a) Provide it with all relevant documents, facilities and information;
 - (b) Enable it, where necessary, to call witnesses or experts and receive their evidence.
10. The parties and the arbitrators shall protect the confidentiality of any information that they receive in confidence during the proceedings of the arbitral tribunal.
11. The arbitral tribunal may, at the request of one of the parties, recommend interim measures of protection.
12. If one of the parties to the dispute does not appear before the arbitral tribunal or fails to defend its case, the other party may request the tribunal to continue the proceedings and to render its final decision. Absence of a party or failure of a party to defend its case shall not constitute a bar to the proceedings.
13. The arbitral tribunal may hear and determine counter-claims arising directly out of the subject matter of the dispute.
14. Unless the arbitral tribunal determines otherwise because of the particular circumstances of the case, the expenses of the tribunal, including the remuneration of its members, shall be borne by the parties to the dispute in equal shares. The tribunal shall keep a record of all its expenses, and shall furnish a final statement thereof to the parties.
15. Any Party to this Convention which has an interest of a legal nature in the subject matter of the dispute, and which may be affected by a decision in the case, may intervene in the proceedings with the consent of the tribunal.
16. The arbitral tribunal shall render its award within five months of the date on which it is established, unless it finds it necessary to extend the time limit for a period which should not exceed five months.
17. The award of the arbitral tribunal shall be accompanied by a statement of reasons. It shall be final and binding upon all parties to the dispute. The award will be transmitted by the arbitral tribunal to the parties to the dispute and to the secretariat. The secretariat will forward the information received to all Parties to this Convention.
18. Any dispute which may arise between the parties concerning the interpretation or execution of the award may be submitted by either party to the arbitral tribunal which made the award or, if the latter cannot be seized thereof, to another tribunal constituted for this purpose in the same manner as the first.

Appendix C: 'Bios' for Multi-disciplinary VDS Workshop Training Team



Team Bios – in running order

	<p>Michael Starrett is the Chief Executive of the Heritage Council of Ireland. A graduate ecologist and biologist with post graduate qualifications in education and landscape management he has 30 years experience in the areas of heritage management and policy development. He holds a Masters in Management Practice from Trinity College Dublin and the Irish Management Institute (IMI).</p> <p>His professional qualifications include membership of the Landscape Institute ALI (UK) and the Irish Landscape Institute as well as the Institute of Sport, Parks and Leisure (MISPAL). In addition to a career path that has seen him work in Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, he has extensive European experience through his membership of the Federation of National and Nature Parks of Europe, a pan-European body with 400 members in 38 different countries. He was the first Irishman to be elected as President of the Federation from 2002-2005. He is also a member of the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas.</p> <p>Michael has travelled extensively studying legislation and systems that allow the sustainable management and development of cultural and natural landscapes. He has been the CEO of the Heritage Council since its inception under the <i>Heritage Act 1995</i>.</p>
	<p>Alison Harvey MIPI AILI, is an experienced environmental planner and qualified project manager with a background in economics, who specialises in participative & collaborative planning/regeneration. She has project managed the formulation, implementation and monitoring of city/town and village design and development and regeneration studies/strategies in Ireland, the UK and the US for almost 16 years. Prior to joining the Heritage Council, Alison was a Senior Consultant with a global environmental management consultancy.</p> <p>Shortly after joining the Heritage Council in December 2004, Alison initiated and developed the <i>All-Island Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN)</i>⁷, organised the first IWTN Workshop in Athlone Castle in April 2005, set up the first IWTN Management Committee, and using a collaborative process drafted the first <i>IWTN Action Plan 2006-2008</i>, which secured annual funding of approx €2m for the IWTN from 2007 onwards⁸.</p> <p>Alison set up and manages the Heritage Council's new community-led National Village Design Statement Initiative (est. 2009-), the National Collaborative Public Realm Plan (PRP) Programme for Historic Towns/Cities⁹ (est. 2008) and the National Planning Referral Programme.</p> <p>In late 2008, she set up/project managed the Heritage Council's multi-disciplinary Landscape Character Assessment CPD Training Course (2 days - residential), developed in partnership with 10 professional institutes (north and south)¹⁰. Alison set up and chairs the National Community-led VDS Steering Group, set up the two community-led VDS pilots, and is the author of the <i>National Community-led VDS 'Toolkit'</i>.</p>

7 The IWTN currently has 23 members - www.heritagecouncil.ie/walled_towns/index.html

8 The first IWTN Action Plan successfully secured its first annual funding of €2.016m in 2007 leading to the delivery of 40 projects (capital and current) in that year alone.

⁹ In Roscrea – this current public realm plan project is called *Roscrea Town Centre Enhancement Plan*.

¹⁰ The multi-disciplinary LCA CPD Course was delivered twice a year for an agreed three year period during 2009-2011. Over 200 people from Ireland, the UK and Australia have completed the course – the course was awarded the ILI President's Award in November 2009.



Gráinne Shaffrey MRIAI is an architect and urban designer in private practice in Ireland. A Principal in Shaffrey Associates Architects, Dublin, her architectural expertise includes the conservation, adaptation and extension of historic buildings and the design of new buildings in historic settings, including Irish towns and villages. She has particular expertise in townscape and villagescape appraisal.

Dublin-based Shaffrey Associates Architects urban design practice centres principally on existing urban centres and complexes including their regeneration, consolidation and extension and is concerned with the integration of new and existing urban fabric and public spaces, which facilitate social and physical vibrancy and diversity. Research forms an important element in the overall practice.

Gráinne was appointed by the Minister to the Heritage Council Board in 2008, where she is Chair of the *Architectural Committee* and *Climate Change Working Group*. She was one of the trainers on the award-winning, multi-disciplinary LCA CPD Training Course (2 day residential course), which was delivered by the Heritage Council and partners twice a year for three years during 2009-2011 – Grainne was responsible for the townscape and villagescape appraisal section of the course.

In addition, she is the current Vice-President of the RIAI Council and is also a Board member of the National Building Agency (NBA). She was a Lecturer on the *RIAI's Urban Design CPD and Conservation Induction Module 2010*. Grainne is also a member of the editorial board of *Architecture Ireland*¹¹.



Colm Murray is the architecture officer of the Heritage Council since 2005. He works on projects and policies relating to grant-giving, climate change, church usage, curtilage, conservation plans, the economic value of the historic environment, development control decisions, historic urban landscapes and architectural conservation areas, World Heritage Sites and to connect heritage with sustainable development. Communicating the value of the built heritage is central to the role. The ethos of the Heritage Council is to support community involvement and grass-roots initiatives, which encourage 'ownership' of the common 'heritage'. Colm's current project is to foster built heritage conservation skills training in Ireland. The involves the provision of website information, setting up of structured training programmes, recognition of the skills already accrued by the construction workforce, and the championing the use of those skills to care of the special places, which make Ireland attractive to live in and visit.

Previously, he worked as conservation architect with the Office of Public Works, conserving and presenting national monuments, as a Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands architectural heritage advisor, and carried out inventories for the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. He has Masters degrees in Conservation, and Town Planning. He worked in architectural practices in Dublin and Portugal.

Colm is a director of the Rothe House Trust, a seventeenth-century house museum in Kilkenny, currently being 're-presented'. This involves historical research and interpretation, managing exhibition consultants' inputs, and ensuring good-quality design. Colm organised the joint ICOMOS/Heritage Council Conference – *Your Place of Mine*, which was held in the Royal Irish Academy in April 2012.

¹¹ <http://architecturenow.ie/architectureireland/>



Éamonn De Stafort has had a long association with urban and rural development throughout the Mid West Region since his appointment as Tourism Development Officer with the former Shannonside Tourism. His earliest involvement in Tourism Development relates to the Conservation and Restoration of Holy Cross Abbey, Thurles, which necessitated the passing of the Act of Holy Cross Abbey in Dáil Éireann in 1969 to permit the restoration of the Abbey for use as a parish church. It took four years to complete. In the early 1970s he played an active role in the development of the Rent an Irish Scheme, an innovative development inaugurated in the Mid West Region, when 100 thatched cottages were built in eleven rural areas to stimulate tourism and village renewal.

His appointment as Environmental Officer for the Shannon Region led to his association with a range of developments throughout the Region including the coordination of the National Tidy Towns Competition. In 1988 he transferred to Shannon Development and worked as Senior Executive Officer until his retirement. He has been a member of the National Tidy Towns adjudication panel for over three decades. In 2005 he was nominated by the Department of the Environment as the Irish Jury Member for the European Entente Florale Competition and has judged over 160 towns and villages in the 12 participating countries.

Éamonn holds an honours MA in History and Local Studies from the University of Limerick and is a founder member of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland, founded in 1996. He has lectured and written extensively on Mining in Silvermines where he lives. He has represented the community in the programme for the Rehabilitation of Six Mining sites in the Silvermines area, the aftermath of mining from the 19th and 20th century, carried out by North Tipperary Co. Co on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources. The programme cost €10.6 million and included an expenditure of over €350,000 for the conservation of five 19th century mining buildings.



John McAlinden is the Chair of the Sandymount Village Design Statement Steering Committee since its inception in 2009. He lives and works in Sandymount Village, where he runs a busy post office in the centre of the village. John has been involved with local community-based projects for many years and has also served as vice-chair of Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association.

He has a keen interest in community greenway projects – one of the key projects identified in the Sandymount VDS Agreed Action Plan - and led a visit from the Sandymount VDS Steering Committee to the Connswater Community Greenway project in East Belfast in late 2011. The development of a community greenway in the south of Dublin City is currently at a conception stage and it is envisaged that the project will be defined and developed in partnership with Dublin City Council, the NPWS and Fáilte Ireland.



Joe McCarthy is a networking consultant and forensic analyst. He set up his own consulting practice, Arkaon Limited, in 1995 after a long career in IBM Ireland. He is a qualified expert in telecommunications technologies and advises clients on the cost effective specification, procurement, implementation and management of large networks.

Joe is Vice-Chair of the Sandymount VDS Inter-Agency Group (Steering Committee) and played a significant role in producing the Sandymount Village Design Statement and, since its launch, has been actively researching the historic landscape - *time-depth* - of Sandymount Village from 1692 onwards. He completed the Heritage Council's LCA CPD training course in May 2012 and has presented historic talks and walks for National Heritage Week since 2010. He is also treasurer of the Sandymount Tidy Towns Committee, which this year won the *Best Urban Village Award* from the Irish Planning Institute. Joe is a Chartered Engineer.



Valerie Jennings is a networking consultant and project manager. She has worked with Arkaon Limited since 2000 designing and implementing countrywide telecommunications solutions for large organisations. She is expert in public procurement procedures having facilitated several multi-million euro tenders for large networks.

Valerie was project manager for producing the Sandymount Village Design Statement. Since its renewal in late 2011, she has chaired the Sandymount TidyTowns Committee, which has run a large number of successful events bringing the community spirit back to the village, including Bloomsday Celebrations in June 2012, and a Garden Party and Book Fair in July 2012. Sandymount won the *Best Urban Village* from the Dublin City Council South East Neighbourhood Awards, 2012. Sandymount also won the Best Urban Village Award from the Irish Planning Institute in the 2012 National TidyTowns Competition. Valerie is a Chartered Physiotherapist.



Emer Dolphin is an independent Training and Organisational Consultant with over twenty years experience in community development, organisational change and policy development in the community and statutory sectors in Ireland. She holds an MSc in Education and Training Management and is particularly interested in the use of creative methodologies to deepen trust and social integration in organisations, communities and wider society.

She has been living with her family in Julianstown village since 2000. She joined the local residents association in 2007 and played a leadership role in the development of the community-led Julianstown Village Design Statement, which was selected as the National Pilot by the Heritage Council in 2009 and has its Ministerial launch in the autumn of 2010. Emer is currently Chair of the Julianstown and District Community Association which oversees the implementation of the VDS. She is committed to making Julianstown a great community to live in, and is also a leader in the local youth club.

Emer believes passionately in the power of community to harness the deeper collective intelligence and create solutions for the greater good.



Aoife McGrath - with third level qualifications in Geography and Regional and Urban Planning, Aoife has gained extensive experience in the areas of Spatial Planning, Heritage and Local and Rural Development. In her role as RDP Projects Officer with Meath Partnership, Aoife works with a wide range of community groups and private individuals in areas such as business creation, heritage, tourism and village enhancement, in order to generate employment and encourage rural development through grant aid under the EU LEADER programme.

Before joining Meath Partnership, Aoife worked as a planning intern with the Heritage Council during November 2010 - May 2011 on the implementation phase of the Julianstown VDS and prepared the *Julianstown VDS Implementation Plan*. Through Aoife's work with the Julianstown community, she has developed a keen interest in rural issues particularly sustainable community development, heritage, and environmental management.



Dr. Deirdre Cunningham is Heritage Officer with Mayo County Council since 2003. In her role she deals with natural, built and cultural heritage, and is responsible for facilitating the County Mayo Heritage Forum and implementing the County Mayo Heritage Plan.

Deirdre is project manager for the Mayo Village Design Statement Programme. Three Design Statements have been prepared in Mayo for the villages of Louisburgh, Belcarra and more recently Mulranny, which was launched by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny in April 2012. A community-led VDS is currently being prepared for Cong.

Deirdre holds a BSc in Environmental Science, and a PhD from the School of Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin. Her postgraduate research focused on the effects of historic land use changes on soils and vegetation in semi-natural woodlands.

Deirdre is the author of *Brackloon Wood - The Story of an Irish Oakwood* and has produced and edited various publications on aspects of the heritage of Mayo.



Sean Carolan became involved in heritage and conservation as a volunteer in the mid-nineties when he spearheaded the Rosmurrevagh Dune conservation project which, having received several tranches of funding from the Heritage Council for research, conservation and interpretation, won the National Nature Award in 2007. In collaboration with local partners Seán designed and developed the 6km Mulranny National Loop Walk, opened during Heritage Week 2010, which accesses 3 EU designated sites. Recently he coordinated the successful Great Western Greenway/Mulranny submission for the European Destination of Excellence Sustainable tourism award, which was themed on regeneration of heritage sites in 2011. He worked with the production team on the Great Western Greenway RTE Tracks & Trails feature and the EDEN promotional DVD.

In partnership with the Mulranny Park Hotel he has developed Heritage Week guided walks started in 2006, into the '*Mulranny Walking Experience*', launched in January 2010. This has generated 1,500 new bed-nights worth €150,000 to the local economy. Inspired by a Heritage Outlook article in summer 2009, he has promoted the Old Irish Goat nationally securing Nationwide, Eco Eye and Irish Times coverage. He has coordinated a ground breaking DNA based characterisation study of the Old Irish Goat. This is a trans-national effort involving partners from England Scotland and Ireland. A project documentary is on-going: <http://bit.ly/TheChanceToSurvive> with funding from the Heritage Council. Seán promoted the idea of a Village Design Statement for Mulranny to bring a strong heritage based vision to the development of the village.

Current projects include '*Mulranny Heritage Interpretation by Multimedia*' which is supported by The Heritage Council under the Education and Community Outreach Fund 2011. Seán is Chairman of Mulranny Environmental Group, and a member of Mulranny Tidy Towns and Mulranny Community Futures. He works for Horizon, an Engineering Services Company and is a part-time farmer.



Dr. Henry Lyons - although he is better known nationally for his involvement in community enterprise projects, Henry Lyons is a scientist by profession and has spent a lifetime in lecturing and administration in third level education. After eight years as a Lecturer in Chemistry in the Dublin Institute of Technology, he returned to Kerry to become the first Head of Science at the newly established Tralee RTC, which is now known as the Institute of Technology, Tralee. In 1998 he became Head of Development at the Institute with responsibility for external liaison with public and sector groups in the region as well as campus enterprise development.

In 1983, Tralee Town Council acquired the derelict site containing the shell of a 200 year old windmill at Blennerville on the edge of Tralee Bay.

Henry was elected Chairman of the newly formed Blennerville Windmill Restoration Committee and quickly became immersed in industrial archaeology and heritage led enterprise development projects. A full authentic restoration was completed by 1989 and a few years it was reported to be the 'largest working windmill in Great Britain and Ireland' in the Guinness Book of records.

The windmill turned out to be a flagship project and went on to be the catalyst for a series of other innovative heritage-based initiatives such as the restoration of the Tralee Ship Canal, the restoration and reopening of a two mile section of the famous Tralee-Dingle Steam Railway and indirectly to the establishment of the Kerry County Museum in Tralee and the Jeanie Johnston Famine Ship project.

Henry has had a lifelong interest in natural products derived from marine and terrestrial plants and has used his background in science to help several coastal communities in setting up small enterprises and environmental projects. This has helped in the creation of much needed employment in these areas and the development of some innovative products and solutions for sustainable agriculture.

Henry has been a Board member of the Heritage Council since 2009 and is Chair of the *Marine Committee*.



Anne Barcoe is Personal Assistant to the Heritage Council's Chief Executive and has been working for the Council for almost 11 years. Prior to working in Kilkenny, Anne spent over 12 years in New York working for a global management consultancy company. During her time in the US, she gained valuable experience working for one of the company's partners.

Since joining the Heritage Council, she has worked closely with Alison Harvey in setting up the Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) in 2005. She also worked with Alison on the IWTN's first All-Island Management Committee in 2005/2006.

Anne organised the Heritage Council's very successful three-day International Landscape Conference, which took place in Tullamore in October 2009 and oversaw the production of the accompanying landscape factsheets. Anne also manages the production of the Heritage Council's Annual Report.

Anne is the registered first-aider for the multi-disciplinary VDS Workshop.



Kate Moloney is the current planning intern at the Heritage Council with a background in international planning, sustainable development and housing research. She completed a MSc in International Planning at the Bartlett School of Planning at University College London in 2011, where she focused on sustainable development and, in particular, the creation of healthy cities. Her Master's dissertation focused on the role of the built environment in contributing to health and well being in urban areas, using the cities of London and Melbourne as case studies.

Prior to commencing her master's studies, Kate worked as a housing policy researcher at the Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency in Dublin and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. She worked on a range of government-sponsored policy research projects covering areas such as social housing provision, sustainable development and the national housing market.

Kate has a keen interest in sustainable development, collaborative planning and the interrelationship between the built environment, health and well-being of those living in cities, towns and villages (rural and urban). In addition to receiving her Masters in International Planning, Kate also holds a BA in Public & Social Policy from National University of Ireland, Galway and an MA in International Studies from the University of Limerick.

Since joining the Heritage Council in May 2012, Kate has joined the multi-agency Roscrea Town Centre Enhancement Plan steering group and is a founding member of the RosCre Beo Festival Committee, helping to organise the inaugural RosCre Beo Festival as part of National Heritage Week 2012. Working closely with Alison Harvey, she researched and wrote the factsheets accompanying the VDS Toolkit and also assisted in the design and organisation of the inaugural VDS Workshop.

Appendix D: Approved Health and Safety Statement



Community-led Village Design Statements in Ireland
Inaugural Workshop: Newpark Hotel, Thursday 18th October 2012 (One Day)

Health and Safety (H&S) Statement, October 2012

1. Emergency contact number of Workshop Co-ordinator (Alison Harvey, Mobile 087 419 3458) to be in contact from 9am-9pm on day prior to workshop in case of accident or breakdown;
2. Certified First Aider will be available during workshop hours – Anne Barcoe, Heritage Council;
3. Training Programme and itinerary to be posted on the notice board in the Heritage Council along with contact no. for Alison (mobile no.);
4. If an accident occurs - *Accident Form* to be filled in immediately;
5. Health and Safety Statement to be included in workshop programme for all attendees- attendees to be made aware of Statement at start of the workshop.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alison Harvey'.

Alison Harvey, Workshop Co-ordinator

Appendix E: Directions to Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny and Sat Nav Co-ordinates

Hotel Tel No. 056 776 0500

Sat Nav Co-ordinates:

N52.6634W7.2503

Hotel Location Map:

<http://maps.google.ie/maps?q=Newpark+Hotel,+Kilkenny&hl=en&ll=52.659726,-7.24823&spn=0.507273,0.883026&sll=52.665556,-7.370453&sspn=0.507205,0.883026&oq=newpark+&hq=Newpark+Hotel,+Kilkenny&t=m&z=10>

Getting to The Newpark Hotel from the M9 (from Dublin)

- Follow signs for N7 Southbound
- Continue forward onto N7 (signposted Limerick), continue forward onto the M7 motorway (signposted Limerick) M9
- Leave the M7 at Exit 11, then join the M9 motorway (signposted Waterford) - leave the M9 at Exit 8, then merge onto the N10 (signposted Kilkenny) – follow road to small roundabout (signposted Clara to the right)
- At small roundabout follow signs for Kilkenny – N10 (cross over the Pooke River)
- At Hebron Road Roundabout take the 3rd exit onto the N77 (signposted Durrow)
- At Johnswell Road Roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N77 (signposted Durrow)
- At New Orchard Road Roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N77 (signposted Durrow)
- At Castlecomer Road Roundabout take the 1st exit onto Castlecomer Road – signposted City Centre
- Continue along Castlecomer Road for **approx 2km** - the Newpark Hotel is located on the left.

Getting to The Newpark Hotel from Cork

- Start out on Merchant's Quay Cork Bus Station
- At traffic lights continue forward onto Anderson's Quay - N20 N27
- At traffic lights turn left onto Albert Street - N27 (signposted Dublin N8) Michael Collins Bridge (River Lee) N8
- Bear left onto Penrose's Quay - N8 (signposted All Routes)
- Turn right onto the N8 (signposted Dublin) Kent Railway Station
- At roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N8 (signposted Dublin) M8
- At Dunkettle Interchange branch left, then at Dunkettle Interchange (Exit 19) roundabout take the 1st exit onto the M8 (signposted Dublin)
- At Exit 17 continue forward onto the M8 toll motorway (signposted Dublin)
- Leave the M8 at Exit 10 and at roundabout take the 3rd exit, then merge onto the N24. At roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N24 (signposted Waterford)
- At roundabout take the 1st exit onto the N24 (signposted Waterford)
- At Cahir Road roundabout take the 1st exit onto the N24 (signposted Waterford) onto Clonmel Ring Road
- Continue forward onto the N24 Entering Clonmel At Cashel Road roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Cashel Road - N24 (signposted Waterford) At Fethard Road roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N24 (signposted Waterford)
- At roundabout take the 1st exit onto the N24 (signposted Waterford)
- At Carrigeen roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N24 (signposted Waterford)
- At Moangarriff roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N24 (signposted Kilkenny, Waterford)
- At roundabout take the 1st exit onto Waterford Road - N24 N76
- At Kilheffernan roundabout take the 1st exit onto the N76 (signposted Dublin)
- At crossroads continue forward onto the N76 Continue forward onto Linaun Park - N76 Entering Grangemockler
- Continue forward onto the N76 Entering Ninemilehouse Continue forward onto the N76 Entering Killamery
- At crossroads continue forward onto the N76
- Continue forward onto the N76 Entering Poulacapple
- At crossroads continue forward onto the N76 Continue forward onto Callan Road - N76 Entering Cuffesgrange

- At crossroads continue forward onto Callan Road - N76
- At Callan Road roundabout take the 1st exit onto College Road
- Continue forward onto College Road Entering Kilkenny
- At College Road roundabout take the exit for Castlecomer, Durrow & Athy N77
- Continue on through all roundabouts
- At the Dublin road roundabout take the 2nd exit signposted Castlecomer, Durrow, Athy N77
- At Johnswell Road Roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N77 (signposted Durrow)
- At New Orchard Road Roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N77 (signposted Durrow)
- At Castlecomer Road Roundabout take the 1st exit onto Castlecomer Road signposted City Centre
- Continue along Castlecomer Road for **approx 2km**, the Newpark Hotel is located on the left.

Getting to The Newpark Hotel from Waterford

- Start out on The Mall At traffic signals continue forward onto the R680 (signposted Rosslare) Reginald's Tower Waterford Quay
- At traffic signals turn right onto the R680 (signposted Rosslare R448) Rice Bridge (Cross River Suir) R448
- At roundabout take the 1st exit onto Newrath Road - R448 (signposted Dublin M9, Limerick N24, Cork, Rosslare N25) R683
- At Newrath roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the R683 (signposted Dublin M9, Limerick N24, Cork, Rosslare N25) N9
- At Grannagh roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N9 (signposted Dublin M9, Limerick) M9
- At Quarry roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the M9 (signposted Dublin)
- At roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the M9 (signposted Dublin) N10 Leave the M9 at Exit 8, then merge onto the N10 (signposted Kilkenny)
- At roundabout take the 1st exit onto Hebron Road - N10 N77
- At Hebron Road Roundabout take the 3rd exit onto the N77 (signposted Durrow)
- At Johnswell Road Roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N77 (signposted Durrow) At New Orchard Road Roundabout take the 2nd exit onto the N77 (signposted Durrow)
- At Castlecomer Road Roundabout take the 1st exit onto Castlecomer Road
- Continue along Castlecomer Road for **approx 2km**, the Newpark hotel is located on the left.

Getting to The Newpark Hotel from Limerick

- Start out on Ruthland Street
- At traffic signals turn left onto William Street - R527 (signposted Tipperary, Waterford N24)
- At traffic signals continue forward onto Upper William Street - R527 (signposted All Other Routes)
- Bear left onto Upper William Street - R527 (signposted Waterford N24) Limerick Greyhound Stadium
- At Tipperary Roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Ballysimon Road - R527 (signposted Waterford N24)
- Bear left onto Ballysimon Road - N24 Bear left onto Ballysimon Road - R527
- At roundabout take the 3rd exit onto Ballysimon Road - R527 (signposted Waterford N24)
- At traffic signals turn left, then join the M7 motorway (signposted Dublin) M7
- At traffic signals turn left, then join the M7 motorway (signposted Dublin) onto Limerick Bypass
- At Exit 21 continue forward onto the M7 toll motorway (signposted Dublin) Portlaoise Main Toll Plaza Leave the M7 at Exit 17, then at roundabout take the 4th exit onto the N77 (signposted Kilkenny)
- Continue forward onto Portlaoise Road - N77 Entering Abbeyleix
- At crossroads continue forward onto Main Street - N8 (signposted Cork)
- Continue forward onto the N77 Entering Durrow
- Turn left onto Mary's Street - N77 (signposted Kilkenny)
- Continue forward onto Bridge Street - N77 Entering Ballyragget
- Turn right onto the Square - N77 (signposted Kilkenny)
- Bear right onto Patrick Street - N77
- Continue forward onto the N77 Entering Jenkinstown
- Turn right onto the N77 (signposted Kilkenny)
- At Caslecomer Road Roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Castlecomer Road signposted City Centre
- Continue forward onto Castlecomer Road for **approx 2 km**, the Newpark hotel is located on the left.