



SHADOW REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AARHUS
CONVENTION IN AUSTRIA TO THE 6TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES

19/05/17

ÖKOBÜRO – ALLIANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

ÖKOBÜRO is the alliance of the Austrian Environmental Movement. It consists of 16 Austrian organizations engaged in environmental, nature and animal protection like GLOBAL 2000 (Friends of the Earth Austria), FOUR PAWS, Greenpeace, and WWF. ÖKOBÜRO works on the political and legal level for the interests of the environmental movement.

EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICES & COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE CIVIL SOCIETY

AUSTRIA

Summer Kern - ÖKOBÜRO

Overview

- Generous provisions for consultations and commenting
- Incorporation of comments in report: Consultations NOT empty exercise
- Overall quality and comprehensiveness
- Why did ÖKOBÜRO draft a Shadow Report?
- Final remarks

Generous provisions for consultations and commenting

- **WHO:** Ministries, Chancellery, Provinces, Parliament, social partners, Environmental Agency, E-NGOs, Environmental Ombudsmen *and interested public*
- **HOW: Consultation round (1):** on report's content = **9 weeks** – Submitting stakeholders: Chamber of Commerce + ÖKOBÜRO, Umweltdachverband + VIRUS
- **Consultation round (2):** on revised report, with track changes per ACCC recommendations = **6 weeks** via internet and email – Chamber of Commerce + ÖKOBÜRO submitted. **Deadline allowed timely submission of report to Secretariat**

Incorporation of comments in report: Consultations NOT empty exercise

- E-NGOs raised concerns about narrowing of E-Ombudsman's competence"
- "NGOs + E-Ombudsman claim PP for plans too late...not early and effective with reasonable time"; "complaints consultations too short for legislative proposals..."
- "NGOs + Chamber of Labor criticize slow article 9/3 implementation"
- "Costs complaints raised (including new costs in ELD context)"

Overall quality and comprehensiveness

- Clear, does not try to hide anything
- Covers the essentials but also focusing on developments
- Points to resources for further information
- Product of real work and expertise – expenditure of capacity

Why did ÖKOBÜRO draft a Shadow Report?

- Highlight and bring to attention major problem areas in a short report (c.f. AT Report itself)
- Particularly focus on new and emerging issues
- Address things outside scope of Decision V/9b
- *Acknowledge and bring attention to best practices*

Final remarks

- ACCC Recommendations
- Length/Readability issue? Focus on new developments?
- Best practices in implementation reports NOT same as being best practices in terms of actual implementation