

Vitoria-Gasteiz, December 19, 2017

Dear Ombudspersons,

As you probably know, a workshop is scheduled to take place in May 2018 in the Basque Country organised by this Ararteko within the framework of the 2018 IOI Europe programme of activities. The workshop will be devoted to the theme: *"The Right of the People to Good Environmental Governance: The role of Ombudspersons in protecting the right to a suitable environment."*

It is foreseen that it will take place on 16 (full day session) and 17 (morning session) May 2018 at the Conference Centre, called *Palacio Europa*, in Vitoria-Gasteiz (capital city of the Basque Country). I would be glad if you could, as of now, include this activity in your agenda, reserving the time necessary for your participation in this event. I will be honoured and happy to welcome you in the Basque Country on this occasion

Let me, for the time being, provide you with some preliminary information on this forthcoming workshop.

We are currently organising the programme, preparing the thematic panels and selecting the speakers. Should you believe that the work of your institution in this field would be of interest for the participants, I would appreciate it if you could share that information with me together with a brief overview of the topics, initiatives or programmes that you would like to be presented as well as with an indication about the name and contact details of the speaker.



I will inform you promptly about logistic issues (airport pick-up service, accommodation, institutional program, interpretation system to the three official languages of the IOI, social activities and other relevant matters).

I will present all available information in the meeting of the IOI European Board of Directors, to be held in Tallinn next 23 January.

We thank you in advance for the trust placed on this institution and reiterate our wish to see you in the Basque Country on 16-17 May 2018.

Let me request you, dear Sir/Madam, to accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours, faithfully.



Manuel Lezertua

Ararteko – Ombudsman of the Basque Country