

First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs)
3-4 June 2026, Council of Europe Headquarters, Strasbourg

PRACTICAL INFORMATION NOTE



Co-funded by the European Union



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3-4 June 2026, Council of Europe Headquarters, Strasbourg, France

This note provides practical information for participants attending the First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) on 3-4 June 2026.

The event is co-organised by the Council of Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and the Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders under the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), in cooperation with the Secretariat of the UNECE Aarhus Convention, and civil society organisations active in Europe (European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Earthjustice, International Service for Human Rights, Protection International, Front Line Defenders, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, Youth and Environment Europe (YEE), The European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet Europe), Society and Environment, European Center for Non-Profit Law).

1. FORMAT

The First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders will gather environmental human rights defenders, policymakers, European institutions international organisations, civil society and representatives of the 46 Council of Europe member States for a discussion on the protection of environmental human rights defenders and their work.

The Forum will take place over two days and will be organised as follows:

- **Wednesday 3 June 2026:**

- **Discussion among EHRDs**

Day 1 is dedicated to Environmental Human Rights Defenders and organizations supporting their work across the 46 member States of the Council of Europe and in Central Asia. Participation is limited to those who received official confirmation in the form of an invitation letter and registered through the dedicated link.

- **Thursday 4 June 2026:**

- **Open space for EHRDs' engagement with other stakeholders**

Day 2 will provide an open space for dialogue and engagement between EHRDs and other stakeholders, including representatives of the Council of Europe member States, European Institutions, regional and international organisations, and national institutions that have been invited to attend and confirmed their participation.

Programme and Forum website:

A draft programme can be found on [the dedicated webpage of the Forum](#), including a list of other events that will take place in Strasbourg on the occasion of the Forum.

Please refer to this page for latest updates.

2. VENUE

The First European Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders will take place at the [Council of Europe's headquarters](#) in Strasbourg, on 3-4 June 2026:

Palais de l'Europe, Avenue de l'Europe, 67000 Strasbourg, France.

A map of Strasbourg, indicating the location of the Forum and additional activities is provided in Appendix I.

Please note that access to the venue is restricted to participants who have been registered in advance.

3. CONTACT INFORMATION

- For questions about the programme, topics addressed during the event, or general enquiries, please contact the co-organisers:
 - Council of Europe at environment@coe.int
 - Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at ana.souza@un.org
- For logistical matters related to locations of the Forum and events, please contact the Council of Europe at environment@coe.int.

4. BADGES

To access the Council of Europe's premises, participants will be required to undergo security screening and collect their badges.

Please note that a security check is systematically carried out at the entrance of the Palais de l'Europe (as in airports). Due to security procedures and the expected number of participants, delays may occur.

The building will be opened from 8.00am, we strongly advice to arrive as early as possible (from 8am) to avoid missing the beginning of the programme.

Following the security check, participants will receive a personalised badge, valid for the entire duration of the Forum, upon presentation of a valid ID.

Participants are requested to always wear their badges visibly.

5. DOCUMENTATION

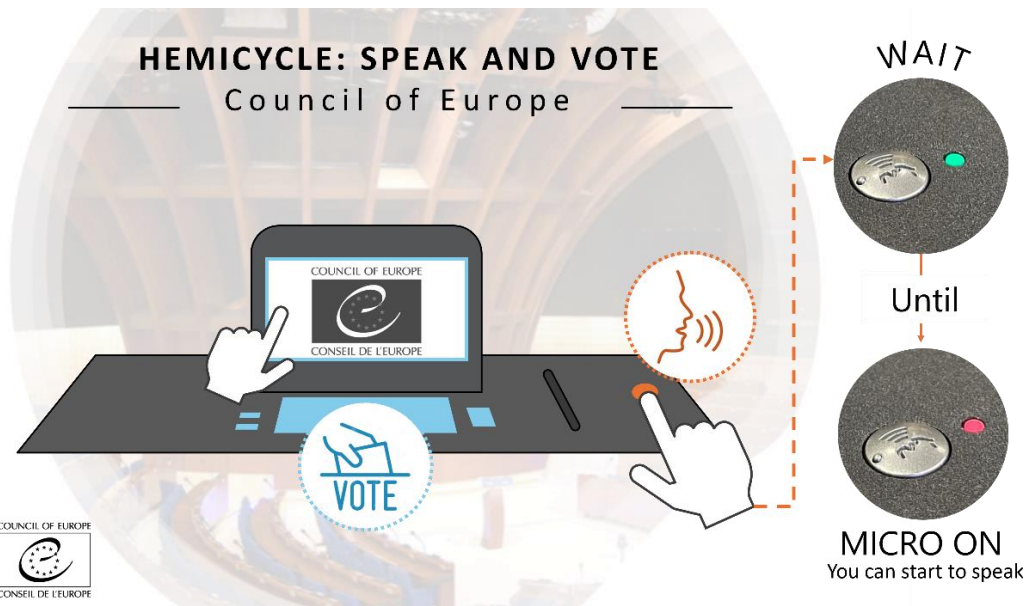
A list of resources is available on the [dedicated webpage of the Forum](#).

6. SEATING ARRANGEMENTS AND INTERVENTION FROM THE FLOOR

To facilitate networking and interactive discussions, seating for all other participants will be open.

Member States, EU representatives and international organisations representatives will need to collect their name plates at the entrance of the hemicycle.

Participants wishing to take the floor during Forum sessions are invited to refer to the guidance note below for "Voting and Speaking in the Hemicycle – Without a Named Badge":



TAKE THE FLOOR

Reminders



MICROPHONE BUTTON :



Press **the round button once**, which is located to the right of your desk.

Be careful not to place object or your hand on this button.

LED's MEANING :



The LED ● means that the request is sent to the technician who will turn on your microphone.

The LED ● means that the microphone is on.

If you press the button again, this action will turn off it.



In consideration of **auditory comfort** and to **preserve the equipment**, we kindly ask that you refrain from **tapping** on the microphone to test its functionality.

If you can, **stand up** before you start speaking.

Don't speak **too close** to the microphone.

7. INTERPRETATION

The Forum will be held in English and French, with interpretation provided for both languages.

Please note that no interpretation will be provided outside plenary sessions.

8. ACCOMMODATION

Participants receiving funding for accommodation will be contacted directly to arrange logistics.

For self-funded participants, Appendix II contains a selection of useful accommodation options at negotiated rates.

9. ARRIVAL AND TRANSPORTATION

Strasbourg has its own airport (Strasbourg-Entzheim Airport), serving several destinations in France, in Europe and North Africa. A rail shuttle connects the airport to Strasbourg central Station to the airport in less than ten minutes.

Other easily accessible international airports include Paris Charles de Gaulle International Airport, Frankfurt Airport and EuroAirport Basel Mulhouse Fribourg, with [train](#) and [bus](#) connection to get to Strasbourg.

Train connections and timetables for travel to Strasbourg can be consulted on [SNCF Connect](#) and SNCF TER Grand Est - Horaires, info trafic, achat de billets et abonnements.

The Council of Europe's Headquarters can be reached by both bus (**Bus L6** direction Pont Phario or Vendenheim Gare / Hoenheim Gare, **Bus 30** direction Wattwiller or Robertsau Sainte-Anne / Chasseurs, **Bus 72** direction République or La Wantzenau Le Golf - get off at Conseil de l'Europe) and **Tram E** direction Campus d'Illkirch or Robertsau L'Escale - get off at Droits de l'Homme.

Tickets can be purchased from the self-service machines at most tram stations, inside the bus or via the [CTS application](#). Tickets can also be recharged at the same machines. Multi-journey cards are available at reduced rates.

10. VISA REQUIREMENT

Participants are advised to check the entry requirements to France according to their nationality, country of residence and expected length of stay with the nearest consulate or diplomatic mission of France in their home country.

Please check the entry requirements to other countries if you are travelling through other countries (example: Germany if you fly through Frankfurt Airport).

The Forum will be held exclusively **in person**. Participants requiring a support letter for their visa application, should send an email to environment@coe.int with a copy of their passport attached.

11. MEALS

Please note that meals are to be self-funded by participants.

Participants of the Forum will be given access to the canteen of the European Parliament during lunch time to purchase their own meals.

Participants will have access to the Parliamentarian bar, located near the hemicycle, which serves light lunches with options available for participants with dietary restrictions.

A cafeteria and a canteen are also available on Floor 0 of the Palais de l'Europe.

12. SAFETY MEASURES AND PRIVACY NOTICE

Safety measures:

Participants are invited to review and acknowledge the privacy notice, which outlines the Organisation's data protection policy. The privacy note will be available on the website of the Forum.

A detailed Safe Space Protocol for all participants will be available on the website of the Forum.

13. OTHERS USEFUL UTILITIES

Wi-Fi:

The Council of Europe provides free Wi-Fi at the Forum venue.

Medical Assistance:

If necessary, at the venue there is an urgency medical service with an Infirmierie. Please approach the co-organisers in case of need.

In case of need more generally, the emergency number in France and EU countries is 112.

Useful information about France and Strasbourg:

Local time: The time zone in France is Central European Summer Time (CEST).

Country Code: + 33

Power Supply: France uses type E and F electrical outlets, providing 230 volts and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.

Tap water: Tap water is safe to drink in France.

Currency: The currency in France is EUR.

We look forward to seeing you in Strasbourg in June!

PROGRAMME

PARALLEL EVENTS

➤ 2 June 2026

A youth gathering will be organised on 2 June, starting at 19.00, for youth participants in the Forum. For registration and information, please contact:

EHRDsForumYouth@proton.me.

➤ 3 June 2026

18.00-19.30 - Roundtable organised by the University of Strasbourg, including interventions from the Vice-Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Committee and representatives from local NGOs (registration required).

Please refer to the [dedicated webpage of the Forum](#) for the latest update on venue and registration.

From 20.00 - Reception hosted by the Mayor of Strasbourg for Forum participants at Hôtel de Ville, 9 Rue Brûlée, 67000 Strasbourg.

Access will be granted on presentation of the Forum accreditation.

➤ Day 2 – 4 June 2026

From 20.00 - Screening of the of the film “Climate Justice” followed by a round table discussion at the UGC Ciné Cité, 25 Avenue du Rhin, 67100 Strasbourg.

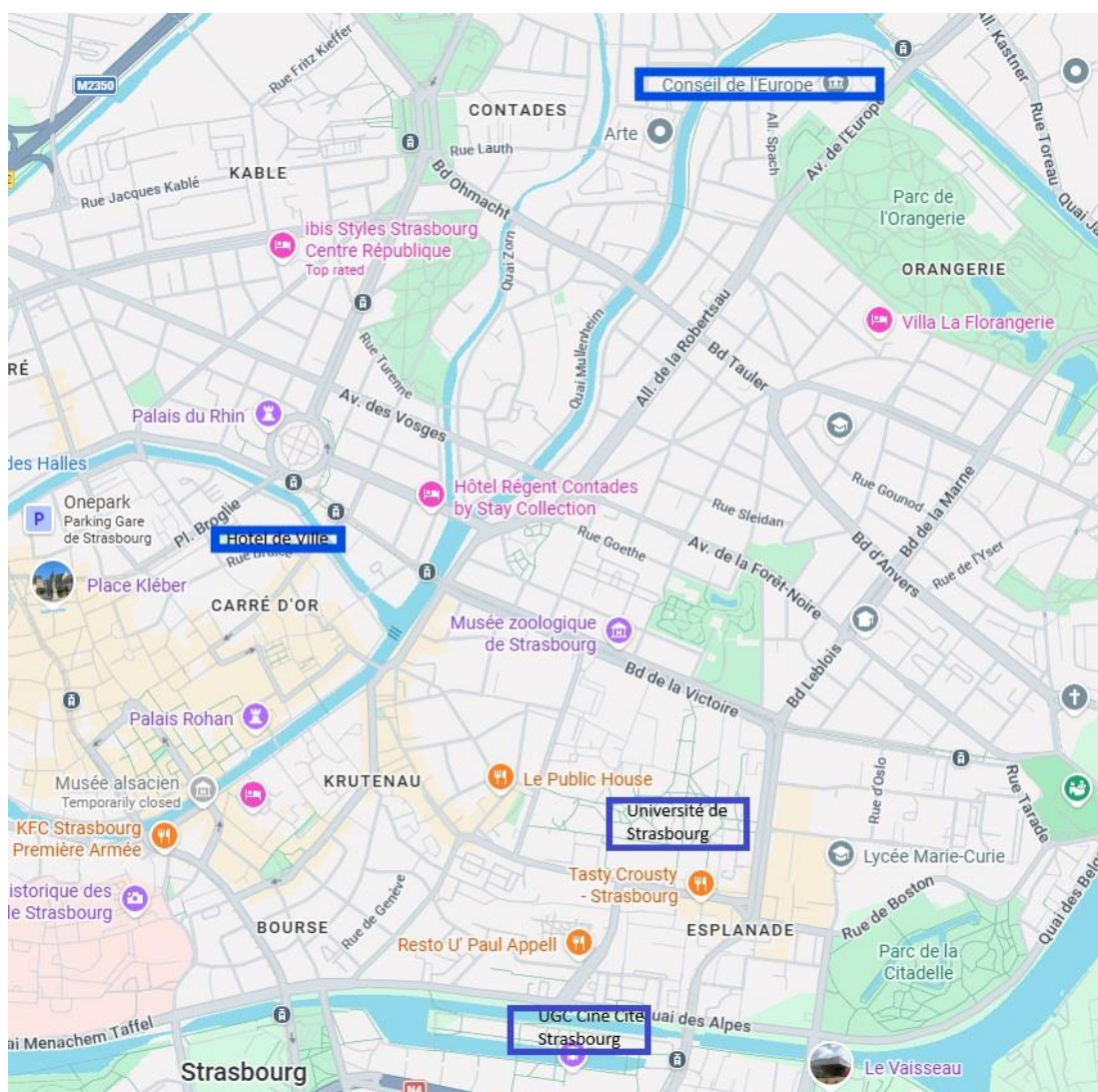
Registration is required at the following [link](#).

Appendix I

VENUES

Map of locations of events:

- Council of Europe's Headquarter, Avenue de l'Europe, 67000 Strasbourg, France,
- Université de Strasbourg, 4 Rue Blaise Pascal, 67081 Strasbourg, France.
- Hôtel de Ville, 9 Rue Brûlée, 67000 Strasbourg, France.
- UGC Ciné Cité Strasbourg, 25 Avenue du Rhin, 67100 Strasbourg, France.



Appendix II

LIST OF HOTELS

Participants should indicate directly to the selected hotel if they wish to benefit from the Council of Europe's negotiated rates.

- **Centre Européen de la Jeunesse Strasbourg**, 30 rue Pierre de Coubertin, 67000 STRASBOURG, Tel : +33 (0)3 88 41 23 00
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/eyc-strasbourg>
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 15min walk)
- **AC by Marriott**, 4-6 Bd de Dresde, 67000 Strasbourg, Tel+ 33 (0)3 67 70 72 72,; commercial@achotelstrasbourg.com
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 8min by tram – 15min walk)
- **Aloft Strasbourg Etoile**, 2 Av. du Rhin, 67100 Strasbourg, Tél : +33 (0) 67 70 78 10, reservation-aloft-strasbourg@naoshotel.com
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 25min by public transport – 40min walk)
- **Arok Hotel *****, 7 place de la gare, 67100 Strasbourg, Tél : +33 (0)3 88 11 45 00, contact@arok-hotel.fr
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 25min by public transport – 45 min walk)
- **Citadines Kléber Strasbourg**, 54 Rue Du Jeu Des Enfants, 67000 Strasbourg, Tel+ 33 (0)3 90 22 47 00, strasbourg@citadines.com
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 20-30min by public transport – 40min walk)
- **Le Grand Hôtel *****, 12 Place de la Gare, 67000 Strasbourg, Tel : +33 (0)3 88 52 84 97, reservation@le-grand-hotel.com
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 20-30min by public transport – 45min walk)
- **Appart City Strasbourg Centre *****, 11 rue de Molsheim, 67000 Strasbourg, Tel+ 33 (0)3 60 82 52 82, Central reservation office: + 33 (0) 820 881 881, reservations@appartcity.com
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 30min by public transport – 1h walk)

For the below Accor Group's Hotels instead, participants can book at this [link](#) at a negotiated price.

- **Ibis budget Strasbourg Centre Republique**, 23A Rue Jean-Frédéric Oberlin, 67000 Strasbourg
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 15-20min by public transport – 20 min walk)

- **Ibis Strasbourg Centre Halles**, 1 Rue de Sébastopol, 67000 Strasbourg
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 20min by public transport – 40 min walk)

- **Ibis Strasbourg Centre Gare**, 10 Pl. de la Gare, 67000 Strasbourg
(Distance from Council of Europe's Headquarter: ~ 25min by public transport – 40 min walk)