

22nd Meeting of the Working Group to the Aarhus Convention

(Geneva, 29-21 June 2018)

Agenda item 4 (a): Compliance mechanism

Norway

Norway welcomes the Decision of the Council of the EU to request a study and, in view of the outcomes of the study, a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the Aarhus Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006), or otherwise inform the Council on other measures required and thus address the findings of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee in case ACCC/C/2008/32 and comply with the Aarhus Convention.

As the discussion and outcome concerning this case at the last Meeting of the Parties to the Convention clearly demonstrated, it is of the utmost importance that the European Union makes sincere efforts to comply with the Convention.

The timeline provided for in the Council Decision does seem quite extensive. It may be questioned whether more than two years would be absolutely necessary to conduct a study and propose or identify measures necessary to comply, as the matter that has been under consideration and discussion for quite some time.

Norway therefore reiterates the importance of the implementation by the European Union of measures to comply with the Aarhus Convention well in advance of the next Meeting of the Parties, in order to avoid repeating the very unfortunate situation experienced at the last Meeting of the Parties.