



**17th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 17)  
(Geneva, 26-28 February 2014)  
Agenda item 3(a): Access to information**

Contribution by the EU and its Member States.

The EU and its Member States thank the Bureau for preparing the draft decision on promoting access to information. Additionally, we welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft decision prior to its finalisation for the seventeenth meeting of the Working Group.

Furthermore, the EU and its Member States appreciate the preparatory work undertaken by the Task Force on Access to Information.

We realize the significance of the first pillar of the Convention for environmental transparency and democracy in compliance with the global environmental principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

We welcome the focus on active distribution of environmental information through electronic information tools, e-government and sharing of good practices as well.

We would like to point out that the draft decision mentions the need to allocate fund/resources at two different bullet points (3 & 10). We are of the opinion that it is better to mention the subject only once, in point 10.

Finally, further elaboration is requested as far as the role of compliance mechanism in bullet point 9 (c) is concerned.