



**17th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 17)
(Geneva, 26-28 February 2014)**

Agenda Item 8(c): Programme of Work for 2015-2017

Contribution by the EU and its Member States

- (1) The EU and its Member States welcome the development of the draft work programme by the Bureau and wish to thank for the opportunity to comment on this draft.
- (2) We think that the level of detail set out in the draft work programme is both useful and practical. However, from the perspective of estimated cost we request further identification of key operational costs.
- (3) We would like to make the following comments regarding substantive issues on the work programme:
 - Access to Information includes electronic information tools: We request to specify that the range of information being made available should be widened within the scope of the Convention. Therefore we suggest the following additions: “a) *The distribution and quality and comparability of environmental information through the effective use of electronic information tools and sharing of good practice, and (b) The further improvement of the implementation of existing information obligations under the Convention*”.
 - Public Participation in decision making: we propose to amend the second paragraph relating to the proposed review of the application of the recommendations on public participation in decision-making, in order to clarify the intention of this review. The amended text should read: “*in order to inform the future work of the Task Force on Public Participation*”. Additionally, we suggest the replacement of the words “*put forward suggestions for further developing*” by “*explore further possibilities for development of*”. Furthermore, we request the deletion of the phrase “*surveys on the application of Recommendations on public participation in decision making*”.
 - Promotion of the Almaty Guidelines etc.: we propose the inclusion of “*on a needs basis*” following the reference to holding of the thematic sessions at meetings of the WGP. The amended text should then read “*Thematic sessions, on a needs basis, at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties...*”