



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

**Agenda item 8 (e): Reporting requirements**

Contribution by the EU and its Member States

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the draft decision on reporting requirements.

We recognize that the Aarhus Convention constitutes an important vehicle of ensuring a comprehensive approach to effectively and equitably deal with access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in Environmental matters.

We support that the national reporting is an important tool in demonstrating compliance with the provisions of Aarhus Convention and simultaneously can be used as a self-assessment tool for countries to track their progress, to identify strengths, trends, weaknesses, opportunities as well as challenges and gaps in their national environmental governance.

We realize that the number of national reports that countries are now required to complete is extensive and the subsequent burden placed on countries to meet these reporting requirements is increasing. In order to avoid in some cases duplication of information requirements and reduce the administrative burdens we suggest the promotion of consultations with other UNECE MEAs with the objective to establish where possible a mechanism to 'streamline' or 'harmonise' national reporting requirements and make the process simpler and less resource-intensive.