

Comments from Norway to Draft Decision on Financial Arrangements under the Aarhus Convention prior to WGP-17

Submitted on 18 October 2013

Norway continues to support the establishment of a mandatory scheme of contributions based on a scale of assessment and therefore support the retention of the word “mandatory” in paragraph 1 and Option B in the Annex to the draft decision.

We note the different views expressed on this issue during the 16th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties. We reiterate the willingness expressed in that meeting to consider other solutions based on the concept contained in Option B in the Annex to the draft decision in order to reach an agreement on a more stable and predictable financial arrangement than the current interim system of voluntary contributions, which has proven to be unsustainable.

We also support the retention of the new and additional language proposed in paragraph 1 *litra* (f). The challenges to effective implementation of the Convention are not only caused by insufficient financing but also late payment of contributions. Our domestic budgetary procedures do not allow payment of contributions for a given calendar year by 1 October of the preceding year, but we support the recommendation that they are made in the first six months of the calendar year to which they pertain.

We also support the retention of the new and additional language proposed by the EU in paragraph 1 *litra* (g), since pledges for expected contributions prior to the adoption of a work programme by the Meeting of the Parties would be subject to internal budgetary processes and cannot be made by Norway if they would be considered as binding.

In para 3 we note with satisfaction that the proposal made by Norway in the 16th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties has been included.

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