



Aarhus Convention

24th Working Group of the Parties (WGP 24)

(Geneva, 28-29 October 2020)

- Statement by the EU and its Member States

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and the Chair of the 24th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties for the preparatory work and the organization of the second part of the session.

We recall our previous support to organize the 24th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties in two parts; and we welcomed possibilities to join this October meeting remotely for those delegations who choose to do so, also in the spirit of fostering digital transformation and more green and sustainable practices, and especially when this is also warranted by health and safety concerns in these challenging times.

Faced with the further development of the Covid-19 pandemic this request has become even more relevant. Many EU delegations and their experts, that would have liked to participate in person, are glad to participate at least in a hybrid format by virtual means. We thank the Secretariat for making this possible.

In this second part of the 24th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties the EU and its Member States will refer to the statements already delivered in the first part of the meeting or to the written comments that have been published by the UN ECE Secretariat already during the summer break.

Due to the existing situation, the EU and its Member States have been confronted with considerable challenges in preparing their positions. Against this background we would like to underline that the EU and its Member States will define their final position on new developments before the next Meeting of the Working Group to the Convention and that they reserve the right to react to and comment on new developments that may arise during the hybrid meeting of the Working Group at a later stage.
