



**Aarhus Convention**  
**24th Working Group of the Parties (WGP 24)**  
**(Geneva, 1-3 July 2020)**  
**- Comments by the EU and its Member States**

**Agenda item 7 (d): Future financial arrangements**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing an information document and a first draft for a decision on the future financial arrangements under the Convention to be discussed at the 24<sup>th</sup> Working Group of the Parties.

The EU and its Member States acknowledge the difficulties for the Secretariat and the work carried out under the Convention by the current financial arrangements.

Nevertheless, the EU and its Member States are not in a position to change the general approach to the future financial arrangements.

The EU and its Member States propose that the discussion on the future financial arrangements only focuses on Option A for a financial scheme with voluntary contributions. Based on this, we support that the Convention sends a strong signal to all Parties that it is of high importance to keep at least the current level of pledges.

In addition, we are open to discuss any improvements of the current financial arrangements based on a voluntary scheme. In this regard the EU and its Member States reiterate its openness on the question of the minimal annual contribution, aiming at a minimum threshold so no contributing Party should pay less than 1 000 US Dollars in a given calendar year. This approach would follow established practice within the framework of other ECE Conventions.

We would also like to encourage Parties to make, where possible, regular contributions and pledges, as we fully recognise the need for stability, predictability and fair burden sharing in financial matters.

Finally, we remain open to re-assess the situation after the Seventh Meeting of Parties and in light of new developments and ideas.

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