

**Aarhus Convention**  
**25th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 25)**  
**(Geneva, 3 May 2021)**

**– Statement by the EU and its Member States –**

**Agenda item 3: Reports by the Chairs of the task forces and other updates on recent developments in the areas of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice – access to information**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Chair of the Task Force on Access to information and the Secretariat for their work on this topic.

We welcome the outcomes of the 7th meeting of the Task Force of Access to Information (Geneva, 16-17 November 2020) and the overall assessment made of recent and upcoming developments with regard to the public access to environmental information, including those related to COVID-19 pandemic and to the application of restrictions in disclosure in accordance with the Convention.

The EU and its Member States recognize that effective public access to environment-related product information harnessing the benefits of digitalization can support Parties in achieving a number of Sustainable Development Goals and in implementing effectively the initiatives related to the European Green Deal, transition towards green and circular economy, greening public procurement and implementing zero wastes approaches.

We thank the work undertaken for the update of the Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools and on the recent developments in dissemination of environmental information and the use of electronic information.