

**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 justice**

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

We welcome the outcomes of the 13th meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice under the Aarhus Convention (Geneva, 15-16 February 2021).

The EU and its Member States acknowledge the increase of public interest litigation cases related to climate change, biodiversity protection, environmental assessments and other matters and recognize the need to enable accountability of decision-making and the rule of law in these matters.

We welcome the exchange of experiences, good practices and challenges related to access to justice in cases relating to air quality.

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Chair of the Task Force, participated Parties and stakeholders for their contribution to the study on access to justice in information cases.

We welcome the expression of interest from Belgium to lead the work area on access to justice.