

final version as delivered at WGP 25 - first session

## **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 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 25th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties for the preparatory work and organization considering conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We support the proposal made by Bureau of having WGP 25 meeting in two parts and that the first part is held virtually to exchange information and have discussions while the second part that is planned to be held in hybrid format on 7-8 June would be focused on items requiring decision-making.

We welcome possibilities to join the 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.