

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 5: Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages

The EU and its Member States welcome the efforts and progress made by the Secretariat in promoting capacity-building and awareness-raising regarding the Aarhus Convention at international level in various international forums.

We appreciate the involvement of the Secretariat in providing advisory support regarding the negotiation of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Convention) and would like to particularly welcome its entry into force, on 22 April 2021.

We also welcome the continuous advisory support provided by the Secretariat in assisting Guinea Bissau's efforts to accede to the Aarhus Convention, and we reiterate our encouragement to other States from outside the UNECE region to become Parties to this international treaty.

The EU and its Member States appreciate the work undertaken by the Secretariat during the reporting period in promoting the Convention and its principles and interlinkages with various international forums, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development processes.