

Aarhus Convention
25th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 25)
(Geneva, 7-8 June 2021)

– Contribution by the EU and its Member States –

Agenda item 9(a): Draft decision VII/... Promoting effective access to information and Draft updated recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the Draft Decision on promoting effective access to information (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2021/14).

We appreciate the work done by the Bureau on the Draft Decision and that our proposals have been taken on board.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Republic of Moldova for its leadership of the Task Force over the last years.

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Chair of the Task Force on Access to Information and the Secretariat for preparing the revised draft of the updated Recommendations on electronic tools and its Addendum with a view to their submission for consideration and adoption by MoP7 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2021/13 and ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2021/13/Add.1).

We support the revised draft as this document aims to assist Parties, signatories and other interested States in supporting the implementation of the Convention through the development, maintenance, upgrade and use of electronic information tools by applying common approaches and standards as well as to facilitate the implementation of other relevant international commitments, such as environment-related Sustainable Development Goal and targets, bearing in mind that these are non-binding recommendations and not a legally binding instrument.

We can support the proposal of the Draft Decision on promoting effective access to information as it stands and we would ask the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare the document for decision-making at MoP 7.