

Aarhus Convention
Preparation of the Seventh session of the Meeting of the
Parties to the Aarhus Convention (MOP 7, Geneva, 18-21 October 2021)
– Contribution by the EU and its Member States –

Agenda Item 9 (f): Accession by Guinea-Bissau

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the secretariat and the Bureau for the revised draft decision on the accession of Guinea-Bissau to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), pursuant to decision IV/5 on accession to the Convention by non-ECE member States adopted by the Convention's Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session and to the note on the expression of intention by Guinea-Bissau to accede to the Convention submitted by the secretariat to the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention at its twenty-fourth meeting (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2021/21).

We welcome the draft document on accession by Guinea-Bissau to the Convention, which can be considered as an important step underlining the Convention's potential to serve as an instrument of global relevance and to strengthening democratic principles, transparency, accountability, and the rule of law (not only) in environmental matters in this African country, which is in line with the European Union's broader strategic priorities.

The EU and its Member States could approve the revised proposal for a Draft Decision on the accession by Guinea-Bissau and we would ask the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare the document for final decision making at MoP 7.