

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(d): Draft decision VII/... Application of the principles of the Convention in international forums

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau for preparing the Draft Decision on Promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2021/17).

We would like to show gratitude to France for its ongoing leadership and welcomes its willingness to continue the leading of this work area.

The EU and its Member States appreciate that our previous proposals have been taken on board, and we especially welcome the more cautious text in para 10.

We believe that it is important to continue working on the topic of trade negotiations under this item, as well as loss of biodiversity, the marine environment, and climate change, underlining the need for prioritization. We would like to particularly welcome the entry into force of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), on 22 April 2021.

We can agree with the proposal of the Draft Decision 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.