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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON  
ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE  
IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

Third meeting

Riga, 11–13 June 2008

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Interpretation of article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention on the conditions for entry into force of amendments

**DRAFT DECISION III/1**

**INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE 14 OF THE CONVENTION**

**Draft decision prepared by the Working Group of the Parties**

*The Meeting of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision II/1 on genetically modified organisms, through which an amendment to the Convention was adopted,

*Noting* that article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention, which establishes the conditions for entry into force of amendments to the Convention other than those to an annex, is open to different interpretations due to the ambiguity inherent in the expression “by at least three fourths of these Parties”,

*Recalling* article 31 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which sets out general rules on the interpretation of treaties and which requires, in paragraph 3 (a), that any subsequent agreement between the parties to a treaty regarding its interpretation or the application of its provisions shall be taken into account,

*Desiring* to bring about an early entry into force of the amendment adopted through decision II/1, and, in principle, any future amendments to the Aarhus Convention<sup>1</sup>,

1. *Agrees* to interpret the expression “by at least three fourths of these Parties” as meaning at least three fourths of the [number of] Parties to the Convention that were Parties at the time of the adoption of the amendment;
2. *Decides* that any State that becomes a Party to the Convention after the date of adoption of this decision is also deemed to have agreed to the interpretation of article 14, paragraph 4, of the Convention, set out above.

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<sup>1</sup> The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.