



Contribution by the EU and its Member States to the 14th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 14)

Draft decision IV/6 on the work programme for 2012-2014

item 3. (a) of the provisional agenda for WGP 14

(1) The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and the Bureau for the draft decision on work programme for 2012-2014.

(2) We are content with the priorities for funding identified in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the draft decision for the next inter-sessional period.

(3) We would like to thank the Secretariat and the Bureau for including the reference to an in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Aarhus Convention in annex I of the Work Programme. We believe that this evaluation is an important exercise for the next inter-sessional period which will consider how the task forces are functioning. This evaluation will enable the MOP to take informed decisions on how best to deliver work under the Convention for improving the implementation in the future.

(4) We therefore think that the in-depth evaluation should be listed as a separate activity under the work programme. This should include a specific timeframe for the work to be completed in order to ensure that the work is completed in time to be taken into account in the preparation of the decisions for MOP5 in particular the strategic plan for 2015-2020. The terms of reference for this evaluation should be considered by the Working Group of the Parties on a proposal from the Bureau with the assistance of the Secretariat.

(5) We would also like to propose some in annex I to bring it in line with the Strategic Plan.

(6) Firstly, point IV. on Access to information we propose to add "exchange of information and best practice in promoting the accessibility of environmental information held by the private sector".

(7) Secondly in point V. on Public participation we would suggest adding "undertake preparatory work in connection with the achievement of the relevant objectives and the related indicative activities in focal area III of the Strategic Plan 2009-2014, notably objectives III.3, III.4, III.5 and III.7."

(8) We have submitted drafting suggestions on annex I to the Secretariat and request the Secretariat to amend annex II according to annex I.