



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

DRAFT DECISION ON FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

item 3. (b) 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 financial arrangements.

(2) As we have stated previously, we recognise the need for financial arrangements based on the principles of a fair sharing of the burden and predictable sources of funding, accountability and sound financial management. Whilst we are conscious that adequate resources are required for the implementation of the Convention's work programme, we have to be aware of the budget constraints affecting Parties at this time and therefore of the need to preserve flexibility. We also need to collectively ensure the effective implementation of the work programme, while ensuring that spending under the Convention is cost effective and focused on the priorities set out in paragraph 6 and 7 of the draft decision on the work programme. In our view, it is important to prioritize the concrete activities and have made a proposal to do this.

(3) Bearing in mind the above considerations, at this point in time we support the maintenance of an interim voluntary scheme of contributions and we are not in a position to accept a reference to the United Nations scale of assessment as an indicative basis for calculating an estimate of the voluntary contributions of Member States.. In this regard, we support the deletion of paragraphs 1.b and 1.c, the text in the second set of square brackets in paragraphs 2 and the Annex. Paragraph 1 should then read "Maintains an interim voluntary scheme".

(4) We would also like to emphasize the importance of Parties striving to ensure that contributions are made at the earliest possible point, and, insofar as possible and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, preferably by the end of the preceding year. This will help to ensure the smooth functioning of the secretariat and facilitate the implementation of the work programme. The

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EU and its Member States confirm their ambition to live up to this objective and we remain open to further discuss on the financial arrangements for the Aarhus Convention in future meetings of the WGP and the MoP.
