

Aarhus Convention Meeting of the Parties

30 June 2014

Statement by Switzerland

Agenda item 4a: Access to information, including electronic information tools

Switzerland is convinced that access to environmental information is an important part of good environmental governance. Timely, reliable, high quality and easily accessible environmental information is essential both to underpin policy-making and to inform citizens about the state of the environment.

The Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) allows the countries to link all the existing data and information flows, relevant at the country as well as international. Countries are able to share comparable data and environmental evaluations, as well as to answer to their international obligations.

Therefore Switzerland supports the development of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) across the pan-European region, not only in Switzerland, but also in Central Asia through dedicated projects.

Once SEIS compatible, countries are improving the dissemination of environmental information in the sense of the Aarhus Convention. This is the basis for environmental policy making.