



**Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and to the Protocol on PRTRs,  
Budva, Montenegro**

**Agenda item 8 (c) – Synergies between the Convention and other relevant  
multilateral environmental agreements and other partners: statement by the  
European ECO Forum**

Thank you Madame Chair,

On behalf of European ECO Forum, I would like to highlight the important role that the Aarhus Convention and other MEAs play for present and future generations. For this reason, we find the work on synergies between the Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other partners benefits not only us but also future generations.

Synergies' work is also of significant help in the promotion of principle 10 in other international fora.

We welcome the cooperation undertaken during the last years between the Aarhus Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol given that the role of the public is paramount for the protection, conservation and restoration of our natural heritage.

However, we would like to stress that although avoiding duplication is very important at the same time it is necessary to avoid this does not weaken at all the progress achieved by the Aarhus Convention.

We congratulate the Secretariat for all the cooperation done with other environmental conventions of UNECE. The compliance mechanism of the Water and Health Protocol is a great example of this fruitful cooperation. At the same time, we strongly believe that those Conventions that still do not allow the public to submit communications to their compliance mechanism should consider changing this sooner rather later.

We are convinced that informal meetings between chairs of different MEAs and their compliance mechanisms can help in achieving these necessary synergies in the future.

European Ecoforum is willing to support this area of work and offer our cooperation to the Secretariat to explore synergies with other MEAs.

Thank you.

