Brussels, 23 November 2011

Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the UNECE Protocol on PRTR to the Aarhus Convention
First session (Geneva 28-29 November 2011)
– Item 10: Financial matters

Draft position of the EU and its Member States

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We note the report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011 in relation to the Strategic Plan for 2009–2014 as well as an overview of contributions and expenditures incurred within 2011-2012 concerning the Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol. We accept that the total income for 2010 remained below the core annual requirement as specified in the work programme for 2009–2011.

We recall that at the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, held in Chisinau from 29 June to 1 July 2011, Decision IV/7 on financial arrangements was adopted. No amendments to the financial scheme were adopted at that meeting.

The European Union and its Member States note the financial challenges concerning the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the PRTR Protocol. However, in view of the current financial and economic crisis which is affecting most countries and that has forced governments to adopt drastic budgetary cuts, we consider that at this stage, the financial arrangements based on:

a) voluntary scheme of contributions

b) the European Union contribution at the level of 2.5 percent of the total needed for core activities

established by Decision I/3 adopted on 22 April 2011 by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol should remain unchanged.

Thank you for your attention.