

Contribution by the EU and its Member States to the 15th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 15)

Draft proposal on preparation of an in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2012/7)

Item 9(b) of the provisional agenda for WGP 15

(1) The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for their work on the draft proposal on the preparation of an in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention.

(2) The draft proposal sets out a good overall approach to the conduct of the evaluation.

(3) However, the EU and its Member States are of the opinion that the relevance of the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions to the functioning and implementation of the Convention should be recognized in this evaluation and vice versa.

(4) Firstly, there are synergies between the assessment and the evaluation and therefore a possibility to save time and resources in the conduct of the evaluation. Some of the objectives between the two are almost identical and inter-dependant. For example in this draft, it is an objective to identify the most effective *means* to support implementation of the Convention. In the draft proposal on the preparation of the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions, one objective is to identify the most effective financial *scheme* for supporting implementation of the Convention.

(5) Secondly, the conclusions in the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions are very likely to be of relevance for this evaluation. Furthermore, the conclusions in the evaluation should not be inconsistent with those of the assessment.

(6) The EU and its Member States would therefore suggest that the proposal on the preparation of an assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions and the draft proposal of the preparation of an in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention should be conducted in a manner so as to ensure the tasks are carried out as efficiently as possible, recognizing their inter-dependence. This should enable the work of the Convention to be carried forward effectively in light of the available resources.

(7) Accordingly the assessment could be carried out by the same independent consultant or team of two consultants using available resources and information as the basis of their work.

The indicative timelines should be coordinated and there could in addition be an overall conclusion on the assessments.

(8) Finally, the EU and its Member States welcome the willingness of the Bureau with the assistance of the Secretariat to oversee preparation of the evaluation in the intervening period until the Working Group's next meeting.
