

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 the preparation of an assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2012/8)

Item 9(c) 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 assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions.

(2) The draft sets out a good overall approach to conduct the assessment.

(3) As mentioned under item 9(b) the EU and its Member States are of the opinion that the relevance of the in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention should be recognized in this assessment and vice versa.

(4) The EU and its Member States would therefore, as we did under item 9(b), suggest that the proposal on the preparation of an assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions and the draft proposal on preparation of an in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention should be conducted in a manner 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.

(5) Accordingly the assessment and evaluation could be drafted by the same consultant using available resources and information as the basis of their work. We note in particular that there is a great deal of information already available in relation to the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions. The indicative timelines should be coordinated and there could in addition be an overall conclusion on the assessments.

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