



final version as delivered at WGP 21

Aarhus Convention
21st Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 21)
(Geneva, 4-6 April 2017)

- Contribution by the EU and its Member States -

Agenda item 8 (c): Financial arrangements under the Convention

The EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat and the Bureau for the opportunity to again discuss the draft Decision on Financial Arrangements (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/L.6).

We believe that the current text of the draft Decision is clear in its ambition that each Party – within its ability – should contribute to the implementation of the Convention in its country as such and to the functioning of the Convention as a whole. To provide some direction, we believe that no contributing country should pay less than 1000 USD in a given calendar year, since under this threshold, the expenses incurred in the collection will surpass the revenues.

In line with previous discussions in the Working Group of the Parties as well as the Meetings of the Parties, the EU and its Member States propose to continue the current interim scheme of voluntary contributions. Therefore we suggest to delete the current bracketed texts in the chapeau of paragraph 1, para 1b, 1c and 1d as well as the annex to the Decision.

However, in order to ensure consistency with our position that contributions should be voluntary, we repeat our earlier proposal to add in the new para 1[(b)] the words ‘where a contribution is made’ between the words ‘is expected’ and ‘to contribute’.

We believe that there is an overlap in the text of preamble para 3, preamble para c and para 14. We therefore propose to delete the last part of preamble para 3.

In light of the previous discussions, we do not see merit in burdening the Bureau and the Secretariat with an exercise to use the period until the next MoP to examine new proposals in this regard. Therefore we repeat our proposal to delete the bracketed text at the end of the preamble (Believing that).

We believe that the current text of paragraph 15 is confusing. Referring to the review of the 2005 reform sounds as ancient history. We therefore propose to include the word ‘2013’ between the words “the” and “review”.



Subject to the incorporation of the above mentioned amendments, we could approve the revised proposal for a draft Decision on Financial Arrangements and we would ask the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare the document for final decision making at MoP 6.
