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 (d): Reporting requirements  

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the secretariat and the Bureau for the revised draft Decision on Reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/L.9).

We welcome the suggestions for the addition of the text in the fifth recital, acknowledging the usefulness of the national implementation reports, as a valuable input to the work of Task forces, capacity-building activities, environmental performance reviews and other review programmes.

We propose to extend in paragraph 6 the period for preparation of the National Implementation Reports from 5 to 6 months, to bring them in line with the term mentioned in the Guidance on Reporting. We also request from the Secretariat to put deadlines for submission of NIRs on the Conventions’ website.

We welcome paragraph 11 of the draft Decision, whose aim is to discontinue submission of hard copies of the reports to the Secretariat.

In these circumstances and subject to the above mentioned adjustment, we could approve the current proposal for a draft Decision on Reporting requirements and we would ask the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare the document for final decision making at MoP 6.

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