



*final version as delivered at WGP 21*

**Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol  
21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (WGP 21)  
(Geneva, 4-6 April 2017)**

**- Contribution by the EU and its Member States -**

**Agenda item 8 (e): Draft Budva Declaration**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and especially the Bureau for preparing the revised draft of the Budva Declaration.

We appreciate that many suggestions that we made in the written consultation have been taken on board. With regard to this revised draft, we have the following comments:

**1. General comments:**

We appreciate the structure of the Declaration and the fact that it has been attempted to reduce the text in the third section of the Declaration. However, we still believe that for a ministerial declaration, the text is very long.

We also believe that the Declaration should include a reference to the GMO amendment, and we would welcome a paragraph along these lines:

*“14bis: We call upon Parties to the Convention to ratify the amendment on genetically modified organisms in order to ensure its entry into force.”*

**2. Detailed comments:**

Para 4: we propose to include a new sentence between the first and the last sentence: “We believe that measures undertaken to combat terrorism, are no justification to reduce the rights under the Convention”.

Para 8: the EU and its Member States propose to replace “to take similar steps that ensure” with “take similar steps in the direction of ensuring”. We also propose to delete the words “other” and “similar”.



Para 9: we propose to insert “Kigali amendment to the” before “Montreal Protocol” to make clear that the texts should refer to the most recent amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

Para 11: we propose to include “in particular Goal 16, as well as other Goals under” between “achieving” and “the Sustainable Development Goals”, and to include before “human health” the words “their impact on”. We also propose to replace the words “are instrumental for” and “all” by “can significantly contribute to”.

Para 15: we propose to replace the listing in the first sentence by “Governments and all relevant stakeholders, and fully...”

Para 16: we propose to replace “Echoing” by “We welcome” and place a full stop after “2016)”.

Para 20: we propose to insert after “Justice for all” the words “in line with the requirements of the Convention”.

Para 26: we believe that this para should be brought more in line with the goals and purpose of the Convention. We therefore propose to add at the end of the para after “their lives” the words “and well-being”, and delete the remaining part of the sentence. We also propose to delete the explicit reference to poverty and inequality. With this amendment, we will be able to lift our earlier reservation with regard to this para.

Para 27: the EU included a footnote for explanation; this can be removed after WGP21.

Subject to the incorporation of the above mentioned amendments, we could approve the current proposal for a draft Budva Declaration and we would ask the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat and in consultation with the Bureau of the PRTR Protocol, to prepare the Declaration for final adoption at the joint High Level Segment of the two MoPs.

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