



**Aarhus Convention:
22nd Working Group of the Parties (WGP 22)
(Geneva, 19-21 June 2018)**

Contribution by the EU and its Member States

Agenda item 13: Adoption of outcomes

Statement by the EU and its Member States on the proposals orally outlined by the ACCC Chair to revise the ACCC Guide

The EU and its Member States recognize the high workload for the members of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. We would like to thank the Chair of the Committee for his proposals to revise the Guide for Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. We will consider these carefully and if appropriate will submit written comments.

Our initial view is that in light of the consultative nature of the compliance mechanism and the fundamental principles relating to the right to be heard, we consider it is essential that any decision not to hold a hearing can only be taken with the prior consent by the Party concerned and the Communicant.

This statement is without prejudice to the position that the EU and its Member States will adopt once and if such proposed amendments will be tabled in writing.

Closing statement by the EU and its Member States

The EU and its Member States would like to welcome the outcomes of the 22nd meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and the constructive and collaborative spirit in which this event was held.

We believe that we have made fruitful discussions on important items, related with the implementation of the three pillars of the Convention and the work programmes and we have celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Aarhus Convention accordingly and respectfully.

We would like to thank you, Madam Chair, as well as the UNECE Secretariat and all delegates and stakeholders that have contributed to the success of this 22nd meeting of the Working Group of the Parties.

Finally, we would like to thank the Swiss Government for its hospitality and generosity, and in particular for the wonderful reception it organized yesterday at the Botanical Garden to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Aarhus Convention.



We are looking forward to meet you all again in this setting at the 23rd Working Group of the Parties in 2019.
