

Aarhus Convention
23rd Working Group of the Parties (WGP 23)
(Geneva, 26-28 June 2019)
Contribution by the EU and its Member States

Agenda item 4(c): Capacity-building and awareness-raising

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for its continuous work done in building synergies and enhancing coordination with partners through capacity-building activities, as well as the close cooperation with United Nations partner agencies and other international organizations within the Aarhus Convention capacity-building coordination framework.

The EU and its Member States appreciate the results of the networking event for matching countries' needs with offers of support, which was held on the margins of the twenty-second meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, on the following topics: access to information, public participation, access to justice and e-learning and education.

We take note of the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Capacity-building Coordination Framework, which was held in Geneva, on 9 October 2018. In this regard, we welcome the discussions on the potential cooperation within existing and future capacity-building activities under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in the light of the decisions of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol adopted at the most recent sessions (Budva, Montenegro, 11–15 September 2017) and considering the upcoming 2019 in-depth review of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16.

The EU and its Member States welcome the efforts of the Secretariat in providing substantive support to multi-stakeholder dialogues related to developing renewable energy sustainability and in promoting relevant obligations under the Convention at the Regional meeting on open data and e-government for the environment (Kyiv, 5-6 March 2019).

We appreciate the constant liaising of the Secretariat with partner organizations, potential donors and interested countries and stakeholders and the handling of consultations regarding capacity-building activities through electronic support.

The EU and its Member States acknowledge the importance of the Aarhus Clearinghouse in the dissemination of information about funding opportunities, workshops and training events relevant to building capacities regarding the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.