



Aarhus Convention

24th Working Group of the Parties (WGP 24)

(Geneva, 1-3 July 2020)

- Comments by the EU and its Member States on Agenda item 7 (b)

Agenda item 7 (b): Future strategic plan

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for preparing a revised draft proposal on the future Strategic Plan for 2022-2030..

We refer to our statement at the 23rd session of the Working Group of the Parties, especially concerning the general approach and the explicit link to the SDGs. We thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for taking these and some of our other proposals on board and for answering our questions.

Nevertheless, we re-iterate (with some further linguistic improvements) the following comments on the draft Strategic Plan:

- Objective I.2

National, Indicative types of activity/measure, 2nd paragraph

Drafting proposal - “To ensure that compliance issues are addressed without delay, Parties should, where possible, implement the Committee’s findings and recommendations as soon as possible in order to bring about compliance with the relevant provisions already in the intersessional period; to this effect, and subject to prior agreement of the Party concerned, the Committee may make recommendations directly to that Party.”

National, Indicators of progress/targets, 3rd paragraph

Drafting proposal - “Findings, as well as recommendations of the Compliance Committee, which are subject to the agreement of the Party concerned, are being implemented in the intersessional period by the Party found to be in non-compliance.”

The proposals are in accordance with the requirements of Decision I/7 of the Meeting of the Parties, which does not oblige or request Parties to implement the Committee’s findings and recommendations prior to the next session of the MOP. Furthermore, this proposal should reflect the requirements of paragraph 36 of Decision 1/7, as well as paragraph 3 of Decision VI/8 on general issues of compliance, namely that the agreement of the Party concerned is needed for the Compliance Committee to make recommendations.

International, Indicators of progress/targets, 1st paragraph

Drafting proposal - “Adoption of the findings and recommendations by the Compliance Committee, and adoption of draft decisions on compliance by the Meeting of the Parties”.

The new wording referring to “endorsement” should not be used, as it limits the power of the MOP to decide as to how to adopt the decision.

Furthermore, a remark related to the international dimension of the Objective I.2 - Indicative types of activity/measure: the Accompanying document deletes the words “Thematic review of systemic compliance problems”, as requested by the EU and its Member States, but the current draft itself still contains these words. Therefore, we ask for aligning the draft by deleting this wording.

- Objective III.7

Indicators of progress/targets, 2nd paragraph

We propose to delete the second indicator as within national system of some countries no legal aid mechanism is foreseen for administrative procedures before Courts.
