www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhus/wgp17.html

The seventeenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention was held on **26-28 February 2014** in Geneva (Palais des Nations, Salle XIX). The Working Group reviewed the progress in implementing the current work programme and discussed a number of items in preparation for the fifth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties, including:

- Draft outline of declaration to be adopted by the Meetings of the Parties' of the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs;
- Draft decisions on future strategic plan 2015-2020 and on future work programme 2015-2017;
- Draft decisions on access to information, public participation and access to justice;
- Draft decision on financial arrangements; and
- Agenda for the fifth ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Furthermore, the meeting featured a thematic session on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums. The programme for the session is available on the meeting's website.

Prior to the seventeenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties a meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice was organized from 24-25 February 2014 in Geneva.

Documents for the meeting
Comments received – 3rd round and Statements
Comments received – 2nd round
Documents for consultation – 1st round
PPIF thematic session

Documents for the meeting

Documents for the Working Group of the Parties meeting	ENG	FRE	RUS
Provisional Agenda (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/1)	PDF	PDF	PDF
Report of the seventeenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/2 - advance edited copy)	PDF		
Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012-2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/3)	PDF	PDF	PDF
Overview of contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Convention's work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/7)	PDF	PDF	PDF
Item 3 (a)			
Report of the second meeting of the Task Force on Access to Information (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/4)	PDF		
Accompanying document to the Report (AC/TF.AI-2/Inf.2/Add.1)	PDF		
Key outcomes of the meeting (AC/TF.AI-2/Inf.4)	PDF		
Draft decision on access to information (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.1)	PDF Word	PDF Word	PDF Word
Approved draft decision on access to information (AC/WGP-17/CRP.1)	PDF		
Item 3 (b)			
Draft decision on public participation in decision-making(ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.2)	PDF Word	PDF Word	PDF Word
Approved draft decision on public participation in decision-making (AC/WGP-17/CRP.2)	PDF		
Item 3 (c)			
Report of the sixth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/5)	PDF	PDF	PDF
Draft decision on promoting effective access to justice(ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.3)	PDF Word	PDF Word	PDF Word
Approved draft decision on promoting effective access to justice (AC/WGP-17/CRP.3)	PDF		
Item 3 (d)			
Report of the round table on access to information, public participation and access to justice regarding LMOs/GMOs (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/6)	PDF	PDF	PDF
Item 4 (b)			
Report of the eighth capacity-building coordination meeting (AC/WGP-17/Inf.3) - Advance version	PDF		

Documents for the Working Group of the Parties meeting	ENG	FRE	RUS
Item 6			
Note on the ratio of extrabudgetory contributions vis-à-vis regular budget contributions for environmental activities in the UNECE (AC/WGP-17/Inf.2)	PDF		
Item 7: Thematic session on promoting the principles of the Convention in international forums (PPIF)			
Draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.4)	PDF Word	PDF Word	PDF Word
Approved draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums (AC/WGP-17/CRP.4)	PDF		
Item 8 (a)			
Draft provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.9)	PDF Word	PDF Word	PDF Word
Item 8 (b)			
Draft decision on the Strategic Plan 2015-2020(ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.5)	PDF Word	PDF Word	PDF Word
Approved draft decision on the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 (AC/WGP-17/CRP.5)	PDF		
Overview of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2014 (AC/WGP-17/Inf.1)	PDF		
Item 8 (c)			
Draft decision on the work programme for 2015-2017 (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.6)	PDF Word	PDF WORD	PDF Word
Approved draft decision on the work programme for 2015-2017 (AC/WGP-17/CRP.6)	PDF		
Item 8 (d)			
Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Convention(ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.7)	PDF Word	PDF Word	PDF Word
Approved draft decision on financial arrangements under the Convention (AC/WGP-17/CRP.7)	PDF		
Item 8 (e)			
Draft decision on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.10)	PDF Word	PDF Word	PDF Word
Item 8 (f)			
Draft of the joint declaration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/L.8)	PDF Word	PDF Word	PDF Word
Approved draft of the joint declaration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs(AC/WGP-17/CRP.8)	PDF		
Item 11			
List of decisions and major outcomes of the meeting (AC/WGP-17/Inf.4)	PDF		

Comments received – 3rd round and Statements

Comments on documents for the 17th meeting of WGP – 3rd round	Format
Agenda item 3 (a): Access to information	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 3 (a): Access to information	PDF PDF
Agenda item 3 (b): Public participation in decision-making	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 3 (b): Public participation in decision-making	PDF PDF
Agenda item 3 (c): Access to justice	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 3 (c): Access to justice	PDF PDF
Agenda item 4 (a): Compliance mechanism	
Statement by Austria to the agenda item 4 (a): Compliance mechanism	PDF
Agenda item 4 (b): Capacity-building and awareness-raising	
Statement by the OSCE Ukraine to the agenda item 4b: Capacity-building and awareness-raising	PDF
Statement by Serbia to the agenda item 4b: Capacity-building and awareness-raising	PDF

Comments on documents for the 17th meeting of WGP – 3rd round	Format
Statement by QUNO to the agenda item 4b: Capacity-building and awareness-raising	PDF PDF
Agenda item 5: Accession by States not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and promotion of the Convention's principles in other regions	
Statement by Chile to the agenda item 5	PDF
Agenda item 7: Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 7	PDF PDF
Statement by EEB to the agenda item 7	PDF
Statement by Bankwatch to the agenda item 7	PDF
Agenda item 8 (a): Agenda of the fifth session	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 8 (a): Agenda of the fifth session	PDF PDF
Agenda item 8 (b): Strategic plan for 2015–2020	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 8 (b): Strategic plan for 2015–2020	PDF PDF
Agenda item 8 (c): Programme of work for 2015–2017	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 8 (c): Programme of work for 2015–2017	PDF PDF
Agenda item 8 (d): Financial arrangements under the Convention	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 8 (d): Financial arrangements under the Convention	PDF PDF
Agenda item 8 (e): Reporting requirements	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 8 (e): Reporting requirements	PDF PDF
Statement by Bosnia and Herzegovina to the agenda item 8 (e): Reporting requirements	PDF
Agenda item 8 (f): Declaration	
Statement and comment by the EU and its Member States to the agenda item 8 (f): Declaration	PDF PDF
Comments by Armenia to the agenda item 8 (f): Declaration	PDF

Comments received – 2nd round

Comments received prior to the thirty-second Bureau meeting – 2nd round (2-3 December 2013)	Format
Draft decision on Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 under the Aarhus Convention	
Comments by the EU and its Member States to the Draft decision on Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 under the Aarhus Convention	PDF DOC
Comments by Cefic to the Draft decision on Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 under the Aarhus Convention	PDF
Draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 under the Aarhus Convention	
Comments by the EU and its Member States to the Draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 under the Aarhus Convention	PDF DOC
Comments by Cefic to the Draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 under the Aarhus Convention	PDF
Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Aarhus Convention	
Comments by the EU and its Member States to the Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Aarhus Convention	PDF DOC
Comments by Norway to the Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Aarhus Convention	PDF
Draft decision on access to information	
Comments by the EU and its Member States to the Draft decision on access to information	PDF DOC
Comments by CropLife International and CEFIC to the Draft decision on access to information	PDF

Comments received prior to the thirty-second Bureau meeting – 2nd round (2-3 December 2013)	Format
Draft decision on public participation in decision-making	
Comments by the EU and its Member States to the Draft decision on public participation in decision-making	PDF DOC
Comments by CropLife International and CEFIC to the Draft decision on public participation in decision-making	PDF
Draft decision on promoting effective access to justice	
Comments by the EU and its Member States to the Draft decision on promoting effective access to justice	PDF DOC
Draft elements for the Maastricht Declaration	
Outcomes of the third meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs related to the Draft elements for the Maastricht Declaration	PDF
Comments by the EU and its Member States to the Draft elements for the Maastricht Declaration	PDF DOC
Comments by Norway to the Draft elements for the Maastricht Declaration	PDF
CropLife International and CEFIC to the Draft elements for the Maastricht Declaration	PDF
Comments by the European ECO-forum to the Draft elements for the Maastricht Declaration	PDF DOC

Documents for consultation – 1st round

Documents subject to consultation prior to the thirty-second Bureau meeting – 1st round (2-3 December 2013)	ENG	FRE	RUS
Draft decision on Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 under the Aarhus Convention	DOC		
Draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 under the Aarhus Convention	DOC		
Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Aarhus Convention	DOC		
Draft provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention	DOC		
Draft decision on access to information	DOC		
Draft decision on public participation in decision-making	DOC		
Draft decision on promoting effective access to justice	DOC		
Draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums	DOC		
Draft elements for the Maastricht Declaration (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/12), as submitted to the third meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs	PDF DOC		PDF DOC

PPIF thematic session

Documents	ENG	FRE	RUS
Provisional Agenda	PDF		
Format and organizational aspects of the high level political forum on sustainable development and other important developments, *Division for Sustainable Development/UNDESA*	PDF		
Update on EBRD revision of the environmental and social policy *Ms. Elizabeth Smith, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*	PDF		
Statement on observer engagement in the UNFCCC process *United Nations Climate Change Secretariat*	PDF		
Statement on the activities of the European Investment Bank to promote the principles of the Aarhus Convention *Mr. Alcarpe Felismino, European Investment Bank*	PDF		
Developing new modalities for stakeholder engagement in UNEP *Mr. Alexander Juras, UNEP*	PDF		
Chair's summary of responses received by Parties to the "3-minute survey" on measures to systematically promote the principles of the Convention in international forums	PDF		

Documents	ENGFRERUS
Checklist of measures to be borne in mind when developing an action plan to systematically promote the principles of the Convention in all international forums dealing with matters relating to the environment	PDF PDF PDF
Draft leaflet for government officials on promoting public participation in international forums	PDF
Questionnaire on the Almaty Guidelines.	PDF
Response provided by the secretariat of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo 1991)	
Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA	PDF
Ms Elena Santer Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo 1991)	
Questionnaire on the Almaty Guidelines.	PDF
Response provided by the secretariat of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	
Promotion of the principles of the Aarhus Convention under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	PDF
Ms Franziska Ilg, Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	
Questionnaire on the Almaty Guidelines.	PDF
Response provided by the secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)	
Promotion of the Aarhus principles under the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health	PDF
Ms Chantal Demilecamps, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)	
Questionnaire on the Almaty Guidelines.	PDF
Response provided by the secretariat of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	
Public Participation and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	PDF
Mr Nikolay Savov, *Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents*	
Synthesis of responses received by the UNECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to the questionnaire on the Almaty Guidelines (February 2014	PDF
Responses received by the UNECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) during the 2006-2007 consultation process on the Almaty Guidelines	