Draft decision VI/8f concerning compliance by the European Union with its obligations under the Convention

Thank you Chair

Norway supports the draft decision VI/8f concerning compliance by the European Union with its obligations under the Convention as submitted to the MOP by the Bureau. The decision is drafted in accordance with the long-standing and consistent practice of the Meeting of the Parties to endorse the findings of the Compliance Committee and recommend to the Party concerned to take actions in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee.

We therefore regret that due to exceptional and unfortunate circumstances surrounding this matter, it was not possible to reach consensus on this draft decision. Consensus is the main rule, it gives each Party an equal chance to influence decisions. In order to reach consensus all Parties have to engage in good faith and with the willingness to negotiate and compromise, while respecting their obligations of the Aarhus Convention.

We do however welcome the fact that the finding of the Compliance Committee concerning the compliance of EU with the Convention in case ACCC/C/2008/32 (part II) is not opposed or rejected, and that parties are willing to continue the deliberations on the draft decision with a view to reach consensus in accordance with the Convention and the long-standing and consistent practice at the next MOP.

There are several years to the next MOP and the matter is important. The EU has expressed willingness to continue exploring ways and means to comply with the Convention in a way that is compatible with the fundamental principles of the Union legal order and with its system of judicial review. We urge the EU to make sincere efforts to comply and engage constructively with the CC for this purpose.

We support that the CC is requested to review any developments that have taken place regarding the matter, and to report to the Meeting of the Parties accordingly. This is important in order for the Parties to have updated information on the status and possible improvements made and could make it easier to reach consensus on the decision on this matter at the next MOP.

Norway asks for its position to be recorded in the report from this meeting.