



**Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the  
UNECE Protocol on PRTR to the Aarhus Convention  
First session (Geneva 28-29 November 2011)**

– Item 8: Compliance Committee and reporting mechanism

**Draft position of the EU and its Member States**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We would like to address two issues under this agenda item: the possible review of the reporting mechanism and translations.

We note the findings presented in the Compliance Committee report to the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention. Although the Compliance Committee focused on national implementation reports by Parties, it considered that the reporting mechanism established for the purpose of the Aarhus Convention has been working well. We note that the revision of the reporting format defined in the annex to the decision IV/4 on reporting requirements adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, focuses only of reporting on the Aarhus Convention implementation and not on the reporting mechanism itself. We therefore consider that a change in the reporting mechanism for the Protocol is unnecessary at this stage.

The European Union and its Member States believe that whilst there is still a considerable number of Parties that are putting in place implementation arrangements for the Protocol and working towards ratification, changes at this stage are not advisable as current arrangements are still being implemented.

Possible changes to the reporting mechanism should be considered only once all signatories of the Protocol will have become Parties to the Protocol and once we will have some experience on how the current reporting arrangements are working.

We note decision III/5 on reporting requirements adopted at the third meeting of the Parties held from 11 to 13 June 2008 in Riga. The translation of the reports into three official languages puts significant strain on staff resources of the Secretariat and requires the allocation of additional resources from the Convention's trust fund.

We therefore believe that the practice of translating only the synthesis report into the three official UNECE languages, in line with Decision IV/4 on reporting requirements under the Aarhus Convention, should also be followed by the Parties to the Protocol and adopted at the next Meeting of the Parties.

Thank you for your attention.

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