Contribution by the EU and its Member States to the 15th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 15)

Draft proposal on the preparation of the strategic plan 2015–2020
(ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2012/6)

Item 9(a) of the provisional agenda for WGP 15

(1) The EU and its Member States would like to thank the chair, the Bureau and the Secretariat for their work on the draft proposal on the preparation of the strategic plan 2015–2020.

(2) The draft sets out a good overall approach to organize the elaboration of the strategic plan.

(3) However, the EU and its Member States have comments on the draft proposal.

(4) There seems to be some confusion on the distribution of responsibilities in paragraph 1. The Meeting of Parties mandated the Working Group to elaborate the strategic plan. We have a proposal for a text that in our view is clearer.

(5) As the strategic plan is a very important document, the drafting process should be led by the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties in close cooperation with the Bureau, including its observer and with the assistance of the Secretariat. The Bureau could initiate the process for developing the first draft. This should be reflected in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 should be deleted in order to avoid duplication and misunderstanding.

(6) In Paragraph 4 we suggest to add the word “indicative” to the heading “type of activity” in the table like in the existing table in the current Strategic Plan.

(7) In Paragraph 5, second sentence we propose to add “inter alia” after “constitute” so that the sentence reads out: “The Convention’s work programme constitutes inter alia an operational reflection of the Strategic Plan”.

(8) Furthermore, the EU and its Member States would also like to mention that the outcome of the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions should be referred to in paragraph 8, since the outcome of this assessment may be relevant to development of the plan.
(9) We hope these suggestions are acceptable to all.