Statement by Ms Anke Stock of WECF International on behalf of the European ECO Forum at the 20th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, 15 to 17 June 2016

Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making (item 3 (b))

We thank the Chair for her information and welcome the suggestions made on the way forward. We recommend that issues of systemic nature have to be continuously addressed and discussed and we agree to concentrate on those issues that have not been dealt with in the last inter-sessional period, e.g. public participation in decision-making within extractive industries, chemicals, emerging technologies, product related decision-making and decision-making in climate change related issues.

Furthermore, we welcome the survey that has been done to look into the use of the Maastricht Recommendations by States parties. We welcome the idea to monitor further the application of the Maastricht Recommendations by States parties and suggest to also think about ways of how to raise more awareness of the Maastricht Recommendations. We would like to see an assessment in 1 or 2 years on whether and how they have been used by States parties.