Aarhus Convention
21st Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 21)
(Geneva, 4-6 April 2017)

- Contribution by the EU and its Member States –

Agenda item 3 (c): Access to justice
Draft Decision VI/… on promoting effective access to justice to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration at its sixth session
(Montenegro, 11–14 September 2017).

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau for the revised Draft Decision on promoting access to justice (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/L.3).

We appreciate the work done by the Bureau on the Draft Decision, taking into account the relevant outcomes of the Working Group of the Parties in its 20th Meeting as well as the comments by Parties and stakeholders received thereafter.

We thank Sweden for leading the Task Force Access to Justice for many years.

We bear in mind that in particular, target 16.3 under Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls to "promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all". We strongly believe that this also includes environmental matters.

We can therefore agree with the revised proposal of the Draft Decision by the Aarhus Convention Bureau as it stands and we would ask the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare the document for decision-making at MoP 6.