Aarhus Convention
21st Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP21)
(Geneva, 4-6 April 2017)

- Contribution by the EU and its Member States -

Agenda item 7: Promotion of the principles of the Convention in international forums

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the secretariat and the Bureau for the revised draft decision on Promoting the Principles of the Convention in International Forums (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/L.4).

We express our warm appreciation for the Chair of the PPIF-sessions, Mr. Etienne Ballan, who has led the special sessions on PPIF since 2011 and before that chaired the Task force on PPIF. We regret that this is the last meeting Mr. Etienne Ballan can chair, and we wish you good luck with your future work. We welcome the expression of interest of France, to continue leading this topic.

We appreciate that our previous proposals have been taken on board, and we especially welcome the more cautious text in paras 6a and 6b.

We believe that it is important to continue working on the topic of trade negotiations under this item, and we welcome the continued cooperation with WTO in this regard.

We are therefore prepared to lift the brackets in para 6c, thus retaining the original text.

Subject to the above mentioned adjustment, we could approve the Draft Decision on Promoting the Principles of the Convention in international forums and we would ask the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare this Decision for final decision making at MoP 6.