Aarhus Convention
21th 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 (a): Access to information
Draft Decision VI/… on promoting effective access to information 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 preparing this Draft Decision on promoting effective access to information (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/L.1).

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 and the comments by Parties and stakeholders since then.

We thank Moldova for leading this Task Force over the last years and we welcome the offer of Moldova to continue leading it.

With regard to paragraph 4, we believe that the qualification “from all sources” cannot be substantiated from the text of the Convention as the Convention does not define “emissions in the environment”. We therefore propose to delete the words “from all sources”.

Concerning paragraph 7, we support to lift the brackets.

Subject to the above mentioned adjustment, we could approve the current proposal for a draft decision on Access to Information and we would ask the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare the document for final decision making at MoP 6.