



final version as delivered at WGP 21

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 3 (b): Public participation in decision-making

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau for preparing this revised Draft Decision on promoting effective public participation in decision-making (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2017/L.2).

We appreciate the work done by the Bureau on the Draft Decision, taking into account the comments by Parties and stakeholders since the 20th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties.

We thank Italy for leading this Task force over the last years and for its offer to continue leading it.

In order to be consistent with para 2 of Decision V/2, we believe that para 2 should be formulated in a more neutral way. We propose to include the words “in a number of contracting parties” between “recognizes the valuable role” and “of the Maastricht Recommendations”. We also propose to insert “as appropriate” before “local languages”.

We welcome the suggestions for substantive issues to be given priority in the next intersessional period, taking into account, where appropriate, relevant parts of the Maastricht Recommendations. In this regard, we agree with the proposal by the Bureau for the text in paragraph 11 sub (a).

On paragraph 11 sub (d) under (vi) we emphasize that “ensuring the provision of feedback on how the public’s comments have been taken into account in the decisions” is not an issue for all Parties to the Convention, but that it may still be an issue of a systemic nature to others. We therefore propose to include the wording “as appropriate,” between “and ensuring” and “the provision”.

Subject to the incorporation of the above mentioned amendment, we could approve the current proposal for a Draft Decision on Public Participation in Decision Making and we would ask the Bureau, with the assistance of the Secretariat, to prepare the document for decision making at MoP 6.
