



**16th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 16)  
(Geneva, 19-21 June 2013)**

**Agenda Item 8(c)(i): Assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions**

Contribution by the EU and its Member States and Croatia

- (1) On behalf of the EU and its Member States and Croatia I would like to thank the consultants, the Bureau and the Secretariat for their work in preparing the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions.
- (2) The report is a useful summary of the current situation regarding contributions to the Convention and how this impacts on the work programme of the Convention. It also provides a helpful summary of other funding models, including those used by other multilateral environmental agreements.
- (3) We recognise the challenges faced by the secretariat in planning and implementing the work programme activities and the role of stable, predictable and equitable financing in enabling the work programme to be implemented. Prioritisation of work programme activities should be undertaken, considering the Evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention, and the suggested areas for prioritisation in relation to the Work Programme and the work of the three Task Forces. Prioritisation should also take into account the need for a balanced implementation of the different work areas under the Convention, as well as experience gained under other UNECE multilateral environmental agreements in relation to such prioritisation.
- (4) The EU and its Member States and Croatia continue to support the current interim financing mechanism (Decision I/13), pending the consideration of proposals to enhance sustainability and predictability of the mechanism. We request further details on the proposed options explored in the report in particular the proposal for a mixed scheme of financial contributions, including indicative assessed contributions, but also including widening the funding base through increasing the financing and contributors' diversity and the evaluation of the proposals for developing innovative criteria for establishing a scale of assessments based on the three pillars of the Convention. The identification of pros and cons of each option would assist Parties' deliberations and we would welcome provision of this additional information by the secretariat.

(5) Noting the number of Parties that have made no contribution is increasing, the introduction of a suggested minimum annual contribution of \$500 at this time is supported.

(6) We recognise that the later contributions are received, the more difficult it is to reliably plan and implement work programme activities, and we therefore welcome the request that contributions be made either in the preceding year, where national budgets allow, or, where pre-payment is not an option, that it be recommended that payments are made in the first six months of the year.

(7) We also support increasing synergy with activities under other MEAs and organisations as an option to improve the financial stability of the Aarhus Convention and initial work commenced by the secretariat to explore and implement this option is welcomed.