



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

Agenda Item 8(c)(ii): Draft elements of possible financial arrangements under the Convention

Statement from 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 Bureau for the preparation of the Draft elements of possible financial arrangements under the Convention based on the outcomes of the Assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions.
- (2) We recognise the need for financial arrangements based on the principles of a fair sharing of the burden, predictable sources of funding, accountability and sound financial management.
- (3) The statement provided on behalf of the EU and its Member States and Croatia on the Assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions remains relevant in this regard.
- (4) Pending further details of alternative schemes of contributions put forward by the secretariat and / or the proposed options included in the report on the Assessment of the current scheme of contributions, we continue to support the current interim financing mechanism as per Decision I/13.
- (5) We also support the introduction of a suggested minimum annual contribution of \$500 for all Parties.
- (6) The request that Parties pledge their expected annual or multi-annual financial and in-kind contributions prior to the adoption of a work programme is welcomed. However, this should be qualified by amending the existing text with the inclusion of the phrase “where possible”.
- (7) We acknowledge the possibility that the content or timeframe of the work programme may be open to amendment at WGP taking the annual financial report into consideration and have endeavoured to assist any such amendments by suggesting work areas for prioritisation, as the financial situation allows.

- (8) We request the amendment of paragraph 5 of this paper which urges international organisations working in economies in transition to support participation of representatives of these countries and non-governmental organisations in the meetings and other activities be amended to “call upon” international organisations.
- (9) Finally, we would also like to clarify that the statements regarding the EU contained in footnote 2 of the "Accompanying document to the Assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions" prepared by the consultant are not fully accurate and that the alternatives proposed therein are not in accordance with established practice on these matters.