Statement by the European ECO Forum on the agenda item 3 (a): Substantive issues: Access to Information (delivered by Mara Silina)

In general, we agree with the substantive issues to be given particular priority as indicated in the Chair’s note.

However, we want to stress the following points where more work should be done in the future:

- clear definition of the environmental information (to avoid any misunderstandings and possibility to use other acts for not providing information)
- limited in scope and clear identification of exemptions
- active information provisions from public authorities, including other ministries than Ministry of Environment
- environmentally relevant information from other public authorities
- Costs for obtaining environmental information and the quality of the information received
- Access to environmental information in relation to copyright protection
- Issues concerning commercial and industrial information

This might even lead to either guidelines or amendment to the Convention.