



**Aarhus Convention:
19th Working Group of the Parties (WGP19)
(Geneva, 17-19 June 2015)**

Contribution by the EU and its Member States
agreed at the WPIEI (Aarhus) on 11 May 2015

Agenda item 4(a): Compliance mechanism

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for the timely inclusion of item 4(a) on the provisional agenda of the WGP19, as we would like to comment on the Compliance mechanism.

We welcome the Compliance Committee's (hereinafter – the Committee) continued engagement on the use of domestic remedies, transparency and due process issues raised in Decision V/9 on general issues of compliance as adopted last year by the Fifth Meeting of the Parties in Maastricht.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our strong support for the work of the Committee and the Secretariat in developing a procedure for processing new communications pending determination of preliminary admissibility. In our view this innovation of procedure in compliance matters provides clarity for both communicants and responding Parties on how the pre-admissibility stage of new communications will be handled.

In addition in our view various successive stages of procedure for processing communications pending determination of preliminary admissibility provide the opportunity for both communicants and responding Parties to share their views on admissibility at an early stage which is to be welcomed.

The very high number of communications now being brought before the Committee, as well as the budgetary constraints facing Parties and the Secretariat, emphasise the importance of the pre-admissibility procedures in guiding the Committee and the Secretariat to be able to focus provided limited resources on cases that are not unsubstantiated.

The EU and its Member States look forward to continuing to provide feedback and constructive suggestions to the Committee and the Secretariat on these new procedural innovations with regard to compliance matters as they are developed and applied.