



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 12 September 2012**

**13578/12**

**ENV 691  
DEVGEN 238  
RELEX 790  
ONU 108**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat  
to: Delegations

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Subject: 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (Geneva, 3-5 September 2012)  
- Compilation of statements by the EU and its Member States

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Delegations will find attached for information a compilation of statements by the EU and its Member States delivered during the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 15) (Geneva, 3-5 September 2012).

**Fifteenth Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention**

Contribution by the EU and its Member States to the 15<sup>th</sup> Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 15)

**Item 9(a) of the Provisional Agenda**  
**Strategic plan 2015–2020**

- (1) The EU and its Member States would like to thank the chair, the Bureau and the Secretariat for their work on the draft proposal on the preparation of the strategic plan 2015–2020.
- (2) The draft sets out a good overall approach to organize the elaboration of the strategic plan.
- (3) However, the EU and its Member States have comments on the draft proposal.
- (4) There seems to be some confusion on the distribution of responsibilities in paragraph 1. The Meeting of Parties mandated the Working Group to elaborate the strategic plan. We have a proposal for a text that in our view is clearer.
- (5) As the strategic plan is a very important document, the drafting process should be led by the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties in close cooperation with the Bureau, including its observer and with the assistance of the Secretariat. The Bureau could initiate the process for developing the first draft. This should be reflected in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 should be deleted in order to avoid duplication and misunderstanding.
- (6) In Paragraph 4 we suggest to add the word “indicative” to the heading “type of activity” in the table like in the existing table in the current Strategic Plan.
- (7) In Paragraph 5, second sentence we propose to add “inter alia” after “constitute” so that the sentence reads out: “The Convention’s work programme constitutes inter alia an operational reflection of the Strategic Plan”.
- (8) Furthermore, the EU and its Member States would also like to mention that the outcome of the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions should be referred to in paragraph 8, since the outcome of this assessment may be relevant to development of the plan.
- (9) We hope these suggestions are acceptable to all.

## **Fifteenth Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention**

### Contribution by the EU and its Member States to the 15<sup>th</sup> Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 15)

#### **Item 9(b) of the Provisional Agenda** **Functioning and implementation of the Convention**

- (1) The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for their work on the draft proposal on the preparation of an in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention.
- (2) The draft proposal sets out a good overall approach to the conduct of the evaluation.
- (3) However, the EU and its Member States are of the opinion that the relevance of the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions to the functioning and implementation of the Convention should be recognized in this evaluation and vice versa.
- (4) Firstly, there are synergies between the assessment and the evaluation and therefore a possibility to save time and resources in the conduct of the evaluation. Some of the objectives between the two are almost identical and inter-dependant. For example in this draft, it is an objective to identify the most effective means to support implementation of the Convention. In the draft proposal on the preparation of the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions, one objective is to identify the most effective financial scheme for supporting implementation of the Convention.
- (5) Secondly, the conclusions in the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions are very likely to be of relevance for this evaluation. Furthermore, the conclusions in the evaluation should not be inconsistent with those of the assessment.
- (6) The EU and its Member States would therefore suggest that the proposal on the preparation of an assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions and the draft proposal of the preparation of an in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention should be conducted in a manner so as to ensure the tasks are carried out as efficiently as possible, recognizing their inter-dependence. This should enable the work of the Convention to be carried forward effectively in light of the available resources.
- (7) Accordingly the assessment could be carried out by the same independent consultant or team of two consultants using available resources and information as the basis of their work. The indicative timelines should be coordinated and there could in addition be an overall conclusion on the assessments.
- (8) Finally, the EU and its Member States welcome the willingness of the Bureau with the assistance of the Secretariat to oversee preparation of the evaluation in the intervening period until the Working Group's next meeting.

## **Fifteenth Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention**

### Contribution by the EU and its Member States to the 15<sup>th</sup> Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (WGP 15)

#### **Item 9(c) of the Provisional Agenda** **Interim scheme of contributions**

- (1) The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for their work on the draft proposal on the preparation of an assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions.
- (2) The draft sets out a good overall approach to conduct the assessment.
- (3) As mentioned under item 9(b) the EU and its Member States are of the opinion that the relevance of the in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention should be recognized in this assessment and vice versa.
- (4) The EU and its Member States would therefore, as we did under item 9(b), suggest that the proposal on the preparation of an assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions and the draft proposal on preparation of an in-depth evaluation of the current functioning and implementation of the Convention should be conducted in a manner to ensure the tasks are carried out as efficiently as possible, recognizing their inter-dependence. This should enable the work of the Convention to be carried forward effectively in light of the available resources.
- (5) Accordingly the assessment and evaluation could be drafted by the same consultant using available resources and information as the basis of their work. We note in particular that there is a great deal of information already available in relation to the assessment of the current interim scheme of contributions. The indicative timelines should be coordinated and there could in addition be an overall conclusion on the assessments.
- (6) Finally, the EU and its Member States welcome the willingness of the Bureau with the assistance of the Secretariat to oversee preparation of the assessment in the intervening period until the Working Group's next meeting.

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