



Pan-European Coalition of Environmental Citizens Organisations

STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN ECO-FORUM

on agenda item 6 (c) Synergies between the Convention and other relevant MEAs

Chisinau, 30 June 2011

As member of the NGO coalition active in many multilateral environmental agreements we clearly see the synergies that have been developed with and via the Aarhus Convention. There are positive developments which derive from the Aarhus influence, such as the recent UNFCCC SBI in-session workshop that took place in June this year. The UNFCCC secretariat reported about it yesterday. Aarhus parties promote the Aarhus principles in this context and improvements can be seen, however, many areas in relation to observer participation are still underdeveloped.

But there are also positive influences deriving from MEAs, such as the major groups' system developed under the Commission on Sustainable Development. These innovative ideas and ways have to be used within and for the Aarhus Convention.

When we are looking at our input to the RIO Plus 20 conference next year, we have the chance to promote the Aarhus Convention at a global level and we have to highlight its major strength having a real compliance mechanism securing implementation.

In that context, we welcome the work programme 2012-14 under point XIII "Promotion of Almaty Guidelines" to develop guidelines on PP and the work programme of the TF on PP in D-M to explore synergies and possibilities for cooperation with relevant bodies under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context ; the Protocol on Water and Health; and the ANCLI initiative.

Thank you!