

## **Aarhus Convention**

### **MOP-5**

#### **Agenda item 6. Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages**

##### **(b) Promotion of the Convention's principles in international forums**

##### **Keynote address by Ms. Gita Parihar , European ECO Forum**

PPIF is an area of growing importance in the fulfilment of the Aarhus vision. Whether through key upcoming climate meetings, the discussions on public participation in the UNEA and the SDGs or discussions between the EU and US on trade, the fundamental nature of the principles articulated under the Convention is becoming increasingly evident internationally. We wish to emphasise the need for Aarhus parties to actively and proactively promote all three principles of the Convention in international forums. It is equally important for them to work internally across their departments to ensure that the principles are understood and implemented in all relevant contexts. We welcome the renewed leadership of France in this area and look forward to cooperating on the full implementation of these principles in the lead up to and during the Paris climate COP.

We also welcome the reaffirmation of need for continued progress through the decision on PPIF. However we are concerned about the lack of reference to specific financial resources to support the work. We would remind parties that they have a legal obligation under Article 3(7) and that the support for the PPIF working group sessions has played a valuable role in supporting parties to understand and implement this. We believe that this is a much more constructive route than the alternative option which would have been to bring compliance committee complaints. We hope that this useful method of work in what is a cutting edge area will receive the support needed for it to continue to thrive.