

## **Aarhus Convention Meeting of the Parties - agenda item 5(b)**

**30 June 2014**

### **Statement by the United Kingdom**

We are very concerned about the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties' proposal to delete text from the footnote in draft decision V/90 and move this to the report of the Meeting, given that we had the same discussion and reached agreement on this point 24 hours ago. This was agreed by the Working Group of the Parties. It would set a worrying precedent to open up a decision agreed at the Working Group at the Meeting of the Parties in this way.

Our position on the content of the draft decision agreed yesterday has not changed.

We do not agree that the Compliance Committee should have made findings in communication 53.

We do not agree that a recommendation on article 9(5) is necessary.

We expressed this view very clearly in our letters of 5<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and at the Working Group of the Parties yesterday. We repeat, as we did yesterday, that the Meeting of the Parties is not and should not be a rubber stamp for the Compliance Committee or the Bureau.

If it is the decision of the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to re-open an agreed decision and to delete the agreed compromise text the proposal is to put this in the report of the Meeting. We discussed this option yesterday. We agreed on footnotes in the decision.

In order to show willingness to compromise again we request that the secretariat closely liaise with us on the drafting of the element dealing with the United Kingdom's concerns. We also note that the Chair has indicated that the report will note the Working Group decision, the decision to open up this agreed decision again and the concerns that we have expressed today.

We also request that this is reflected in the agreed outcomes.