

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the secretariat to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) to provide comments in relation to the review of draft post-2020 Implementation Plan and Capacity-Building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

As you might be aware, the secretariat to the Aarhus Convention and the secretariat to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety are pursuing long-standing cooperation on access to information, public awareness and public participation in matters related to GMOs/LMOs. This cooperation is strongly supported by Parties to the Aarhus Convention, which are also Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Such support is evidenced by clear reference to the cooperation in the current work programme for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention.

Cooperation between the secretariats is being pursued through joint activities aimed at building capacity of governmental experts, such as round tables, guidance material and online learning. The cooperation brought solid results for the benefit of Parties to both treaties.

We therefore would like to ask to reflect in the draft post-2020 Implementation Plan and in the Capacity-Building Action Plan a call to continue cooperation between the two secretariats as to maximise synergy. In this regard, we would like to bring to your attention the [Chair's summary](#) of the latest joint round table with key actions for the future that can be included in the Implementation Plan and the Capacity-Building Action Plan, as appropriate.

Further, we would like to underline that we consider that it will be useful to have a dedicated Programme of Work on the Protocol's Article 23. The [Lucca Guidelines on access to information, public participation and access to justice](#) and a [joint Pocket Guide](#) on the matter, that is being prepared currently, should be used as a supporting material to guide the implementation of relevant sections of the Implementation Plan and of the Capacity-Building Action Plan.

We stand ready to provide any clarifications with regard to this message and will be grateful if you could confirm its receipt.

With kind regards,
Ella Behlyarova



Ella Behlyarova (Ms)
Secretary

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)
Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR Protocol)
Environment Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Email: ella.behlyarova@un.org
<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html>
Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 2376
Office S-332

Palais des Nations
8-14 avenue de la Paix
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland