

Comments by the European Union and its Member States

On the note by the Secretariat on the organization of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Subcommittee and the Fourth Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (6 March 2018)

The EU and its MS thank the Secretariat for proposing two options on the organization of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Subcommittee (ASC-5) and the Fourth Open-ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR-4) and consider this proposal a good basis to make a decision on the roadmap to UNEA-4.

Timing of OECPR4

- In light of UNEA-3 experience and the short time between UNEA-3 and UNEA-4, we support Option 1, namely to hold the OECPR 4 back to back with UNEA-4. We are convinced that holding the UNEA-4 and OECPR-4 sessions back to back will allow more time for inter-sessional preparations, help keeping up momentum and contribute to saving travel costs and time for delegates.
- Our preference for the back-to-back model is only for OECPR-4 and UNEA-4, without prejudice to future UNEA sessions.

Timing of ASC5

- We are not in favour for Option 1 due to the fact that at the same time COP 24 of UNFCCC will take place. We support Option 2 timing for ASC-5, namely 29 October – 2 November 2018. We believe that having ASC-5 earlier will provide more time for preparations between ASC-5 and OECPR-4/UNEA-4. In line with its mandate¹, we strongly support the ASC-5 focusing on Programme of Work and Budget, including the oversight of the current PoW/B and the preparation of the new PoW/B for the period 2020-2021.

Deadlines for resolutions and reports

- We are convinced that the early release of reports and submission of resolutions will contribute to a smooth preparatory process, constructive discussions and good quality resolutions, and will ultimately be of key importance for the success of UNEA4.
- For these reasons, we propose that deadline for the release of the reports should be set to 7-11 January 2019, and for the submission of draft resolutions we should keep the timing proposed in Option 1, namely 17 January 2019

¹ Decision GC 27/2 "Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development", OP11: "Decides to establish a sub-committee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives that will meet annually for a period of 5 days to review, with the support of the secretariat, the Medium Term Strategy and Programme of Work and budget, in a manner coherent with the budgetary cycle of the United Nations, to be endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives and for the governing body's approval, and to oversee their implementation and accountability by the Secretariat"