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**DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING REGULATION NO. 1367/2006 ON THE
APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE AARHUS CONVENTION**

(Document submitted to the Management Board)

Developments regarding Regulation No 1367/2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) adopted a Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention) in 1998 and it entered into force on 30 October 2001. The European Community is a party to the Convention.

At the level of the Community institutions and bodies, the Aarhus Convention is implemented by Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies (Annex 1). This Regulation is directly applicable to the ECHA already today.

As regards access to information, the Commission has published a Green Paper on the review of the public access to documents (COM(2007) 185 final). Its aim is to submit a legislative proposal to amend Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 in the course of the first quarter of the year 2008 in order to, inter alia, avoid any controversies between this Regulation and the Aarhus Regulation and its provisions on access to environmental information.

The Aarhus Regulation also enables environmental NGOs which fulfil certain criteria to request an internal review under environmental law of acts adopted, or omissions, by Community institutions and bodies. To ensure transparent and consistent application, the Commission has recently adopted Decision 2008/50/EC (Annex 2) to clarify these criteria and to set detailed rules on the content and means of submission of applications. The decision requires that contact details of the departments/persons designated by the Community institution or body to treat requests for the internal review of administrative acts shall be made known to the public. Consequently, the ECHA, when updating its website, is inserting a form to be used for requests under the Aarhus Regulation. The Executive Director will be the designated body, and his mail address and fax number will also be provided.