



FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE

KIEV, UKRAINE
21-23 May 2003

PROVISIONAL AGENDA
FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE AARHUS CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO
JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

submitted by

the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention

through the Ad Hoc Working Group of Senior Officials



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Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

(Extraordinary meeting, Kiev, 21 May 2003)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY
MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

**to be held at the International Exhibition Centre, Kiev
on Wednesday, 21 May 2003**

1. Adoption of the agenda (ECE/MP.PP/3).
2. Draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers (MP.PP/2003/1) and draft resolution of the Signatories (MP.PP/2003/1/Add.1).
3. Any other business.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

At their first meeting (Lucca, Italy, 21-23 October 2002), the Parties decided to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Parties on the occasion of the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Kiev with a view to the adoption and opening for signature of a protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers (decision I/3). In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Meeting, the Parties also decided on the provisional agenda for the extraordinary meeting, as set out in the present document. The Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers was established to prepare the draft protocol, continuing and completing the work that had been undertaken by the Working Group of the same name which had been established by the Committee on Environmental Policy prior to the entry into force of the Convention (decision I/2).

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting will be invited to adopt the agenda of the meeting as set out in the present document.

Item 2 Draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers and draft resolution of the Signatories

The Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers held its last meeting from 27 to 30 January 2003, when it agreed on the final text of the draft protocol and recommended it for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties. The Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Karel Blaha (Czech Republic), will be invited to briefly introduce the draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers as set out in document MP.PP/2003/1. Representatives of prospective signatories to the Protocol and Parties to the Convention, one representative of non-governmental organizations and one representative of industry will be invited to give short keynote statements on the protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTR) and related issues as well as an indication of any priorities for further work in the coming years. The floor will then be opened for a general discussion.

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to adopt the draft protocol without any amendments.

Delegations will be invited to consider and adopt a resolution of the Signatories on pollutant release and transfer registers. At the request of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties, the secretariat has prepared draft elements for the resolution (MP.PP/2003/1/Add.1), taking account of comments received on an earlier draft (MP.PP/AC.1/2003/3). It is expected that the draft resolution will be discussed and finalized at an informal meeting of representatives of Parties to the Convention and prospective Signatories to the protocol which will be convened in Kiev on 20 May 2003, and that it will subsequently be submitted, revised as necessary, for consideration and adoption at the extraordinary meeting.

After the resolution has been adopted, the Meeting of the Parties will be invited to approve the mandate for further work pending the entry into force of the protocol, including the establishment of a subsidiary body, as set out in the resolution of the Signatories.

Following the adoption of the protocol, it will be opened for signature and a signing ceremony has provisionally been scheduled for 21 May 2003, taking account of article 24 of the draft protocol. In accordance with the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and established practice for multilateral treaties for which the Secretary-General is the Depositary, the protocol can be signed only by heads of State, heads of government, ministers of foreign affairs or representatives duly authorized by one of these three authorities and able to present full signing powers.

Item 3 Any other business

In the election of the Bureau to the Convention at the first meeting of the Parties, it was agreed that Belgium, having ratified the Convention, would nominate a representative to replace the French representative on the occasion of the extraordinary meeting of the Parties. It was also noted that the Polish representative was willing to serve as Chairperson of the Bureau only for a limited period of time, and that one seat in the Bureau was left empty and could be filled on the same occasion. The Meeting of the Parties is expected to decide upon the required changes to the composition of the Bureau.

Delegations wishing to propose other points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.