

REPORT ON THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS¹

Geneva, 21 November 2013

held back to back with the Protocol's third meeting of the Working Group of the Parties²

1. Attendance

Bureau members: Mr. Michel Amand (Belgium, Chair), Mr. Lars Petter Bingh (Norway, Vice-Chair), Mr. Nicholas Obe (United Kingdom, Vice-Chair), Mr. Jan Maršák (Czech Republic), Mr. Iñigo de Vicente-Mingarro (Spain, for Ms. Carmen Canales), Ms. Tina Skårman (Sweden) and Ms. Manuela Musella (European Union).

Observers: Ms. Mara Silina (European ECO-Forum, for Mary Taylor).

2. Opening and adoption of agenda

The Bureau adopted the agenda for the meeting, as was outlined by the Chair.

3. Declaration

The Bureau considered future steps for preparing the draft Declaration. It was agreed that the text will be elaborated further jointly by the Protocol's and the Convention's Bureaux through email consultations or, if needed, at a possible joint meeting. The Chair was entrusted to liaise with the Chair of the Convention's Bureau with regard to the Declaration, and to participate in the meetings of the Convention's Bureau, as required.

4. High-level segment

The secretariat informed the Bureau that the host country is planning to prepare a proposal on the joint high-level segment to be held under the auspices of the Convention's and Protocol's Meetings of the Parties (Maastricht, 2 July 2014). The proposal will be submitted to the Convention's and Protocol's Bureaux for comments. The Bureau agreed that it will contribute to the suggestions on the PRTR-related issues to be addressed at the high-level segment. The Bureau also expressed its view that the format of the high-level segment should allow more time for interactive discussion rather than for lengthy presentations.

5. Organisational matters for the Protocol's second session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOPP-2)

The secretariat brought to the attention of the Bureau the foreseen schedule for different PRTR-related meetings to take place back-to-back with MOPP-2 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/7), and a preparatory timeline for MOPP-2 (PRTR/WG.1/2013/Inf.3). More detailed information about timing for the meetings, logistics, side events and registration will be made available in due course.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² For list of decisions and major outcomes adopted by the Working Group at its third meeting, see: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/PRTR%20Bureau/WGP3-PRTR-List-of-adopted_decisions_21Nov2013.pdf

6. Finalization of draft decisions for the Protocol's MOPP-2

Pursuant to the outcomes of the third meeting of the Protocol's Working Group of the Parties, the Bureau noted that the secretariat: (a) will prepare the provisional agenda for MOPP-2 for the Bureau's consideration; (b) will prepare the revised draft decision on financial arrangements for the Bureau's consideration prior to its distribution to Parties and stakeholders for comments; and (c) will finalise and submit to MOPP-2 the remaining draft decisions, as was mandated by the Working Group. All documents for MOPP-2 should be finalised and submitted to MOPP-2 by early 2014.

7. Preparation of the synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Protocol

The Bureau agreed that it will provide comments on the draft of the synthesis report to be prepared by the Compliance Committee.

8. Global promotion of the Protocol

The Bureau reaffirmed its support to the global promotion of the Protocol and recognised the Joint Global round table on PRTRs (Geneva, 19 November 2013), organised in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as a very positive experience. It also agreed to consider organisation of a similar event in the future.

The Bureau welcomed the recommendations to the Moroccan authorities regarding a possible accession to the Protocol and establishing PRTR systems, as was presented at the nineteenth session of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 22-25 October 2013)³. It also agreed to explore the opportunity to support the country's accession to the Protocol through relevant bi- and multi- lateral programmes.

³ See: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-19/CEP-19EPR.MA.IP.6.e.pdf>