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UNITED NATIONS  
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### UNECE Communication to Multiplier Points

Title	Date	Topic	Attachment
<b>The PRTR Protocol to the Aarhus Convention.</b>	11.05.05	Environment	

Dear Multiplier Point Representatives,

We are pleased to inform you about the results of the last meeting of the UNECE Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), which took place in April 2005 and whose goal was to further preparations for the entry into force of the PRTR Protocol to the Aarhus Convention.

No State has yet ratified this unique public right-to-know instrument, although many States and the European Community reported that preparations are well underway to implement the Protocol at the national and, in the case of the EU Member States, regional level. The session of the Working Party agreed upon its plan of work for 2006-2008, the period when the Protocol is expected to come into force. The session also reviewed options for rules of procedure and a compliance mechanism to the Protocol. Participants gave the draft guidance on the Protocol on PRTRs its first reading and agreed to prepare a final version through electronic consultation based on the drafts circulated and amended during the session, with the aim of completing the guidance in 2005.

The session called attention to the need to address the capacity of EECCA countries to implement the Protocol successfully and called for greater outreach to the business sector, which has indirect obligations to report to national PRTRs. The secretariat reported on a revised study of the costs of implementing the Protocol in UNECE countries and invited delegations to participate in a trial of the cost model developed to support the study.

You will find more information on this issue at: <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.htm>

Please do not hesitate to contact us, should you need additional information.

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