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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Fourth meeting  
Geneva, 14–16 February 2007

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH MEETING**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 14 February 2007\*

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\* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the Aarhus Convention's website ([www.unece.org/env/pp/practical.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/practical.htm)), and to transmit it to the Aarhus Convention secretariat no later than 2 weeks prior to the meeting – namely, by **31 January 2007** – either by fax (+41 22 917 0634) or by e-mail to [public.participation@unece.org](mailto:public.participation@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Convention's website). In case of difficulty, please contact the Aarhus Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1502 / 2682.

## **I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Relevant developments and activities since the third meeting of the Working Group
3. National preparations for ratification and implementation of the Protocol
4. Preparations for the entry into force of the Protocol and the first session of its Meeting of the Parties:
  - (a) Draft decision on rules of procedure
  - (b) Draft decision on a compliance mechanism
  - (c) Draft decision on financial arrangements
  - (d) Further analysis of options for the establishment of subsidiary bodies
  - (e) Analysis of procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes
  - (f) Elements for a reporting mechanism under the Protocol
  - (g) Elements for a technical assistance mechanism under the Protocol
5. Needs and prospects for capacity-building, technical support, guidance and information exchange
6. Guidance document for the implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs
7. Future work
8. Any other business
9. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group is invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2: Relevant developments and activities since the third meeting of the Working Group

The secretariat will inform the Working Group of the status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs). Delegations will be invited to report on relevant international and regional activities. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be invited to inform the Working Group of the regional meetings on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) held in Barcelona, Spain (20–22 November 2006) and Riga (4–6 December 2006). The secretariat of the Intergovernmental Forum for Chemical Safety (IFCS) will be invited to inform the meeting on relevant outcomes of the fifth session of the IFCS (Forum V), held in Budapest (25–29 September 2006). The United Nations Institute for Training and Research will be invited to inform the meeting on national SAICM pilot projects.

Item 3: National preparations for ratification and implementation of the Protocol

Parties, Signatories and other States will be invited to inform the Working Group of activities undertaken to prepare for ratification and implementation of the Protocol. Within this context, the European Commission will be invited to inform the Working Group about implementation of the regulation establishing the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register.

Item 4: Preparations for the entry into force of the Protocol and the first session of its Meeting of the Parties

Sub-items (a) Draft decision on rules of procedure and (b) Draft decision on a compliance mechanism

At its second meeting, the Working Group agreed to establish a contact group to develop drafts of decisions on rules of procedure and a compliance review mechanism under the Protocol on the basis of the rules of procedure and the compliance mechanism of the Aarhus Convention, taking into account issues raised in written submissions as well as other relevant information. The contact group held its first meeting in parallel with the third meeting of the Working Group, and it held a second meeting in Geneva on 13–15 September 2006. (The draft decisions are contained in documents ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.1 and ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.2.) The Working Group is invited to review these draft documents and revise the texts as needed.

Sub-item (c) Draft decision on financial arrangements

At its third meeting, the Working Group agreed on a process for developing a draft decision on financial arrangements. It mandated the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat and in consultation with the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, to prepare a draft

decision on financial arrangements for consideration by the Working Group at its next meeting, taking into consideration the work on financial arrangements being undertaken by the Working Group of the Parties. The Working Group is invited to give a first reading to this draft, which is contained in document ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.3, and to amend it as appropriate.

Sub-item (d) Further analysis of options for the establishment of subsidiary bodies

The Working Group at its third meeting invited delegations to respond in writing to the secretariat by 10 October 2006 to three questions concerning the possible need to establish a subsidiary body to deal with issues between sessions of the Meeting of the Parties. It requested that the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat summarize the answers and, on the basis of them, prepare a further analysis of the topic, including alternative options as necessary. The Working Group is invited to review and comment on this analysis and any possible alternative options, which are contained in document ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.4.

Sub-items (e) Analysis of procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes, (f) Elements for a reporting mechanism under the Protocol and (g) Elements for a technical assistance mechanism under the Protocol

The Working Group at its third meeting requested that analytical papers be prepared on a programme of work, a reporting mechanism and a technical assistance mechanism, each of which would provide the basis for the development of draft decisions on these topics. The Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, has prepared analyses of these topics for the consideration of the Working Group. The Working Group is invited to review these documents (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.5, ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.6 and ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.7) and then agree a process for their further development as draft decisions for consideration at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 5: Needs and prospects for capacity-building, technical support, guidance and information exchange

The secretariat will report on its efforts to coordinate capacity-building activities by international, regional and non-governmental organizations that are relevant to the Convention and the Protocol and will present the updated capacity-building activities matrix (ECE/MP.PP/AC.1/2007/L.8). Delegations from countries requiring capacity-building or technical support in order to fulfil their future obligations under the Protocol will be invited to describe their needs. Other delegations will be invited to present any ongoing or planned activities aimed at building capacity or providing technical support.

The secretariat will present a concept proposal on capacity-building with regard to PRTRs in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE), which has been submitted as part of the UNECE work programme to the Environment and Security Initiative. It will also update the Working Group on the UNECE project to model the cost of implementation of the Protocol.

A representative of the Bureau of the International Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers Coordinating Group will be invited to report on the adoption of terms of reference for the Coordinating Group.

Item 6: Guidance document for the implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs

The secretariat will report on the preparation for publication of the guidance document. The Working Group may consider to what extent additional guidance is needed to support implementation of the Protocol.

Item 7: Future work

At the third meeting, the Working Group adopted a revised indicative workplan structuring its activities leading up to the first session of the Meeting of the Parties. The secretariat will propose further revision of the calendar of meetings and key documents in preparation for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties for consideration by the Working Group.

Item 8: Any other business

Item 9: Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The secretariat will present the draft report of the meeting for review, comment and adoption by the Working Group.