

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau

Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 24 November 2016

Report of the eleventh meeting of the Bureau¹

I. Attendance

Bureau members: Ms. Tina Skårman (Sweden, Chair), Ms. Ulrike Schöler (Germany, Vice-Chair) and Mr. Nebojsa Redzic (Serbia).

Observers: Mr. Alex Radway for Mr. Chris Allen (European Union), Mr. Iñigo de Vicente-Mingarro for Ms. Carmen Canales (Spain) and Ms. Mara Silina (European ECO-Forum).

Not present: Mr. Øyvind Hetland (Norway, Vice-Chair), Mr. Chris Allen (European Union), Ms. Carmen Canales (Spain) and Mr. Roland Ritter (Switzerland).

II. Opening and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair opened the meeting and the Bureau adopted the provisional agenda.

III. Third session of the Meeting of the Parties

(a) Draft declaration and draft decisions

2. The Bureau discussed the draft Budva declaration (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/13), focusing on the text that was more relevant to the Protocol, and addressed a number of preliminary substantive comments presented by the EU and its Member States and other participants at the fifth meeting of the Protocol's Working Group of the Parties.² The Bureau requested the secretariat to address the revisions agreed by the Bureau in the next draft of the Declaration and submit the document to the Convention's Bureau for its consideration.

3. The secretariat recalled the following procedure for preparation of the declaration. The document had been submitted to the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol and made available to Parties to the Convention and the Protocol and stakeholders for comments. National focal points for the treaties had been requested to coordinate their comments on the document and to submit to the secretariat their consolidated input, before 18 November 2016. It was expected that thereafter the document would be revised, taking into consideration the comments received, and made available to Parties and stakeholders for a second commenting round. The next step would be submission of the draft declaration to the twenty-first meeting of the Convention's Working Group of the Parties (Geneva, 4–6 April 2017). The document would then be revised

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² Comments by the EU and its Member States are available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr/wgp5.html#/>.

again by the two Bureaux, in the light of the comments received, and submitted to the Meetings of the Parties for consideration at their joint high-level session.

4. The secretariat explained to the Bureau that draft decisions adopted by the Working Group at its fifth meeting will be finalized with the a view to their submission to the third session of the Meeting of the Parties and made publically available in Spring 2017.

(b) Joint high-level segment

5. The Bureau discussed a possible format for the joint high-level segment of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and to the Protocol. In this regard, the Bureau recalled a successful experience in organising a session on MEAs at the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8-10 June 2016). The secretariat informed the Bureau that a draft note on organisation of the high-level segment will be prepared by the secretariat and submitted to the two Bureaux for consideration in early 2017, as was done during the preparations for the Joint High-level segment organised at the previous sessions of the Meetings of the Parties. The secretariat also noted that the high-level segment will be organised in close cooperation with the host country.

IV. Any other relevant matters derived from the discussions during the meeting of the Working Group of the Parties

6. The Bureau noted with concern Slovenia's failure to submit its national implementation report and that Slovenia still had not nominated a focal point for the Protocol. The Bureau stressed that in the context of the upcoming second reporting cycle it was important that Slovenia meets its obligations as a Party to the Protocol.

V. Preparation of the synthesis report – role of the Bureau

7. The Bureau considered and agreed with the draft timeline for the preparation of the 2017 reporting cycle synthesis report as prepared by the Chair of the Compliance Committee and the secretariat. The Bureau would review the draft synthesis report twice before submission to the Meeting of the Parties, with the first and second drafts presumably available for comments in April/May 2017, subject to timely submission of reports by the Parties.

VI. Other business

8. Serbia raised the issue of importance of preparing guidelines for operators/owners of facilities in South Eastern Europe as to assist them in calculating emissions from these facilities. The current work focuses on the preparation of guidelines for poultry and pig farms. In addition, Serbia was also looking for help to develop guidelines for some 40 other activities, including mining. Translation of such material in e.g. English and Russian could help to improve the quality and quantity of PRTR data in other countries.

9. The Bureau discussed possible ways to support such an initiative. It was noted that any work undertaken in this area should be in line with existing guidance material from e.g. the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP)³ and other methodologies, such as OECD guidelines, already applied by countries. It was mentioned at the same time that some guidelines might be too advanced for the operators/owners in countries with economies in transition and that the suggestion by Serbia might indeed help to fill a gap in existing guidance material. Germany expressed its interest in identifying possible ways to support financially the work suggested by Serbia.

³ EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/emep-eea-guidebook-2016>