

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

Geneva, 1 July 2014

held before the Protocol's second session of the Meeting of the Parties²

1. Attendance

Bureau members: Mr. Michel Amand (Belgium, Chair), Mr. Øyvind Hetland (Norway, Vice-Chair), Ms. Carmen Canales (Spain) and Ms. Tina Skårman (Sweden).

Observers: Mr. Iñigo de Vicente-Mingarro (Spain) and Ms. Mara Silina (European ECO-Forum, for Mary Taylor).

Not present: Mr. Nicholas Obe (United Kingdom, Vice-Chair), Mr. Jan Maršák (Czech Republic), and Ms. Manuela Musella (European Union).

2. Opening and adoption of agenda

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

3. Future membership of the Bureau

The Chair informed the Bureau on the status of nomination of candidates for the future Bureau.

4. Open issues with regards to category I (action) documents

Recalling the outcomes of the latest meeting of the Protocol's Working Group of the Parties (Geneva, 20—21 November 2013), the Chair expressed his expectation that the following documents Draft decision II/2 on the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.2)³, Draft decision II/1 on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.3)⁴, and Draft decision II/3 on the work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.4)⁵ will be adopted with no substantive amendments. Further, the document on the Promotion of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.6)⁶ is expected to be endorsed in its current form.

The secretariat informed the Bureau that with regard to Draft decision II/1 the information contained in paragraph 6 will need to be up-dated due to a recent receipt of several national implementation reports. In this regard the NGO observer raised the issue of continued non-reporting by some countries under different Conventions. The secretariat informed on the discussion on the subject during the meeting of the Chairs of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) Compliance Committees and the Chair mentioned that this issue might

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² For list of decisions and major outcomes adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its second session, see: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/MOPP2/In-session_documents/MoPP-2_List-of-decisions_4July_EN.pdf.

³ See http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2_docs.html.

⁴ See http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2_docs.html.

⁵ See http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2_docs.html.

⁶ See http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2_docs.html.

be also discussed at the twentieth Session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) to be held in Geneva, 28—31 October 2014.

With regard to document Draft decision II/4 on financial arrangements (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.5)⁷ the Chair recalled different options proposed in the document and informed on the recent discussion amongst the Parties. He also informed the Bureau about the latest decision on the same subject matter adopted within the framework of the Aarhus Convention.

5. Organizational matters for the high-level segment and the Protocol's second session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoPP-2)

The Chair informed the Bureau on organizational matters regarding the joint high-level segment under the Meetings of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 2 July 2014) and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

6. Outcomes of the first reporting cycle as summarized in the synthesis report

The secretariat informed the Bureau on the work arrangements of the Compliance Committee in relation to the preparation of the Synthesis report on the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/5).⁸ Participants shared their views with regard to the substantive aspects and approach to preparing the Synthesis report.

7. Future role of the Compliance Committee as presented in the note by the Committee's Chair

The Chair presented the document on possible role of the Compliance Committee in facilitating implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR/C.1/2014/Inf.1).⁹ The Bureau supported the proposals outlined in the document.

8. Global promotion of the Protocol; e.g. possible future global events

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, possibly in 2015.

⁷ See http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2_docs.html.

⁸ Available under

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/MOPP2/Catagory_II_documents/ece.mp.prtr.2014.5.eng_advance_edited.pdf.

⁹ Available under http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/WGP-2/statements/prtr.c1.2014.inf.1_01.pdf.