



**Economic and Social
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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

(First meeting, Lucca, Italy, 21-23 October 2002)
(Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda)

DRAFT DECISION I/2

POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS

The Meeting.

Recalling article 5, paragraph 9, and article 10, paragraph 2 (i), of the Convention,

Recalling also the decision taken at the seventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group charged with the preparation of a legally binding instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers, with a view to having such an instrument ready for adoption at the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" in Kiev, 1/

Noting with approval the reports of this Working Group under the Committee on Environmental Policy, 2/

Bearing in mind that, since the seventh session of the Committee, the Convention has entered into force and that it is therefore appropriate for the work on pollutant release and transfer registers to be continued under the aegis of the Meeting of the Parties,

1/ See ECE/CEP/74, para. 30 (b).

2/ See CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/2, 5 and 9 and CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/2, 6 and 9.

1. Establishes an open-ended ad hoc subsidiary body, called the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, to replace the above-mentioned Working Group under the Committee;
2. Decides that the mandate of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers will be to prepare a legally binding instrument in the form of a protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers, thereby finishing the work of the first Working Group;
3. Also decides that the protocol will be open to all States and regional economic integration organizations referred to in article 17 and article 19, paragraph 3, of the Convention whether or not they are a Party to the Convention;
4. Requests the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, in preparing the protocol, to take fully into account the implications of paragraph 3, as identified by the Working Group for the preparation of the first meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and to pursue synergies with the Convention;
5. Calls upon the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to complete its work so that the protocol can be adopted and opened for signature at the extraordinary meeting referred to in decision I/3;
6. Calls upon the Parties and Signatories to the Convention, other member States of UNECE and other States that may accede to the Convention pursuant to its article 19, paragraph 3, to participate actively in the preparation of the protocol;
7. Invites all interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations falling within the scope of article 10, paragraphs 4 and 5, of the Convention to contribute to this process;
8. Welcomes the offer of the Czech Republic to chair the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers; and
9. Encourages all negotiating States and regional economic integration organizations to contribute financially to the process of preparing and finalizing the protocol and to further preparatory work needed until the first meeting of its Parties.