

**Economic and Social Council**Distr. General  
5 November 2014

Original: English

**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

**Compliance Committee****Third meeting**

Maastricht, the Netherlands, 3 and 4 July 2014

**Report of the third meeting of the Compliance Committee****Introduction**

1. The third meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters took place in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on 3 and 4 July 2014. Seven of the nine Committee members were present at the meeting; Ms. Martina Vadzar and Mr. Sveto Vasileski did not attend.

**I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

2. The meeting was opened by the Committee Chair, Mr. Alistair McGlone.
3. The Committee adopted its agenda as set out in document ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2014/3.<sup>1</sup>

**II. Submissions, referrals and communications**

4. The secretariat reported that there had been no submissions, referrals or communications since the Committee's second meeting. The Committee took note of the report.

<sup>1</sup> Documentation for the meeting is available from [http://www.unece.org/prtr\\_committee\\_2014\\_3.html](http://www.unece.org/prtr_committee_2014_3.html).



### **III. Future work**

5. The Chair outlined the contents of his note on the possible role of the Compliance Committee in facilitating implementation of the Protocol (PRTR/C.1/2014/Inf.1). The Committee expressed its general support for the document, agreeing that the first reporting exercise had provided a good basis for identifying major trends and challenges in relation to implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs and that the Committee had a potential role to play in facilitating the Protocol's implementation.

### **IV. Lessons learned from the first reporting cycle**

6. The discussion on lessons learned from the first reporting cycle under the Protocol was held in the format of an open round-table session to which members of the public and delegates from Parties, Signatories and other stakeholders were invited. Other issues regarding the implementation of the Protocol were also discussed. The round-table session was followed by consideration of the topic by Committee members in closed session.

7. The Committee concluded that Parties were interested in guidance on reporting and agreed that a guidance document would be prepared taking into account lessons learned from the first reporting cycle. Such guidance would support Parties in the preparation of their reports for the next reporting cycle. As a preparatory first step, the secretariat was requested to undertake an electronic consultation with Parties to obtain information on: (a) which issues required clarification, based on the experience in the first reporting round; (b) what best practices had been identified in preparing the first report that they would want to replicate; and (c) whether Parties had any specific suggestions for the amendment of the questionnaire for the second reporting round.

8. Further, as had been suggested by the Chair in his information note, the Committee agreed that a document looking at systemic issues with regard to the implementation of the Protocol should be prepared in a consultative process, engaging other Protocol bodies, such as Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties, and a wide range of stakeholders engaged in the work on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs).

### **V. Adoption of the outcomes of the meeting**

9. The Committee adopted the major outcomes presented by the Chair at the meeting and requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, to finalize the report and incorporate the adopted outcomes and decisions. The Chair then closed the third meeting.

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