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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

Fourth meeting

Geneva, 27–29 April 2015

Report of the fourth meeting of the Compliance Committee

Introduction

1. The fourth meeting of the Compliance Committee under 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 took place in Geneva from 27 to 29 April 2015. Eight of the nine Committee members were present at the meeting; Mr. Ajabboune 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. Two new members of the Committee, Ms. Nataša Kacic-Bartulovic (Croatia) and Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov (Ukraine), signed solemn declarations pursuant to paragraph 10 of the annex of decision I/2 (see ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1)¹ that they would perform their functions as members impartially and conscientiously.
4. The Committee adopted its agenda (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2015/1), as amended at the meeting.

¹ Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mopp1.html#/>.



II. Submissions by Parties, referrals by the secretariat and communications from the public

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

III. Lessons learned from the first reporting cycle

A. Draft guidance on reporting on the implementation of the Protocol and draft document on systemic issues arising under the Protocol

6. The first drafts of two documents — “Guidance on reporting on the implementation of the Protocol” and “Systemic issues arising under the Protocol on Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and recommendations on how to address them” — had been prepared by the Committee members with the support of the secretariat through electronic communication means and sent to Parties and stakeholders for their comments prior to the meeting. At the meeting, the Committee discussed and amended the documents in the light of the comments received. The revised draft documents would be sent to the Bureau, Parties and stakeholders for further comments before being submitted to the Working Group of the Parties at its fourth meeting (26–27 November 2015).

B. Possible revision of the reporting format

7. The Committee considered the comments received from Parties regarding the possible amendment of the implementation report format (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/5, annex), and agreed that there was no need to revise the format at present. At the same time, it considered that all concerns raised by Parties in relation to the format should be addressed through the guidance on reporting document (see para. 5 above).

C. Systemic issues identified in the implementation reports

8. The Committee noted that the reports from a number of Parties suggested that there might be issues to address concerning the fulfilment of the obligation to establish national PRTRs where countries already had regional reporting obligations, such as to the European Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR). In order to determine whether the situation indicated a widespread failure by Parties to fully comply with the Protocol, the Committee decided to request the secretariat to further investigate the issue.

IV. Election of a Vice-Chair

9. The Compliance Committee elected by consensus Mr. Gor Movsisyan as Vice-Chair from among the members of the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the annex to decision I/2 (see ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1).

V. Other business

10. The Compliance Committee decided to discuss its mandate at its next meeting, with a view to considering whether any recommendations should be made to the Parties.

VI. Adoption of the outcomes of the meeting

11. 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 fourth meeting.
