

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

Second session

Maastricht, the Netherlands, 3 and 4 July 2014

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Review and adoption of decisions

DECISIONS AND MAJOR OUTCOMES¹

[as adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its second session]

**Joined High-level Segment,
2 July 2014**

Item 2: Report on credentials with regard to the Protocol's Parties

The Meeting of the Parties approved the report on credentials and noted that 26 Parties had submitted credentials and this a quorum had been reached.

Item 1: Opening of the general segment and adoption of the agenda

The Meeting of the Parties:

- i. took note of the information provided by the Chair;
- ii. adopted provisional agenda as amended at the session.

Item 2: Status of ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs

The Meeting of the Parties:

- i. took note of the status of the ratification of the Protocol. Since the previous session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2010 the following Parties ratified the Protocol: Cyprus, Ireland, Israel, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- ii. welcomed new Parties and encouraged Signatories and other interested States to proceed with the accession to the Protocol as soon as possible;

¹ This document was not formally edited. The decisions and outcomes contained in the document will be incorporated in the report of the meeting.

iii. took note of statements by Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, European Union (EU).

Item 3: Promotion and capacity-building

a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies

The Meeting of the Parties:

- i. took note of the outcomes of the joint Global round table on PRTRs;
- ii. mandated the Bureau and the secretariat to explore an opportunity for organising a second global event in the future;
- iii. requested the secretariat to produce the agendas, meeting reports and other documents for the future global round table as official documents so that they would be available in the three official languages of UNECE, without recourse to additional extrabudgetary resources;
- iv. took note of the statements by Tadjikistan, the EU, ECLAC, UNEP, UNITAR, Chair of the International Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) Coordinating Group (ICG), OECD, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC CEE), European ECO Forum and the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals Group (ZDHC Group).
- v. thanked partner organisations for support provided to furthering implementation of PRTRs systems thereby strengthening countries' capacities to accede to the Protocol on PRTRs;
- vi. took note of the report by the Chair on the informal coordination of representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Committee on the Environmental Policy, and the first meeting of the Group of Friends of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS);
- vii. called upon partner organisations, MEAs and other stakeholders to cooperate closely where possible to create synergies that further the implementation of the projects and programmes related to PRTRs;
- viii. mandated the Bureau and the secretariat to continue global promotion of the Protocol;
- ix. requested that publications which are prepared by the secretariat and are subject to global outreach of the Protocol, should be processed, translated and published by the United Nations services and be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations without recourse to additional extra-budgetary resources;

x. requested the secretariat to continue servicing the International Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR) Coordinating Group (ICG);

xi. called upon governments to strengthen cooperation between experts dealing with the PRTR Protocol and those dealing with CLRTAP, Water and other relevant agreements, as well as involved in projects carried out by international organisations as to ensure coordination at national level.

b) Provision of technical assistance

The Meeting of the Parties:

i. endorsed the document on Promotion of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.6) as a document describing an overall framework for possible areas for bi or multilateral cooperation;

ii. took note of the statements by Armenia, Belarus, EU, European ECO Forum and REC CEE.

c) Communication tools and materials

The Meeting of the Parties:

i. took note of the presentation on Atlas of the Environment delivered by National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (Netherlands) and statements by Belarus, EU, UNITAR and REC CEE;

ii. requested the secretariat, OECD and UNITAR to continue working closely as to ensure the effective use of PRTR.net and PRTR-Learn.

Item 4: Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Protocol

a) Reporting mechanism

The Meeting of the Parties:

i. took note of information provided in national implementation reports (NIRs) submitted by Parties, and of the synthesis report (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/5) on the status of implementation of the Protocol by Parties presented by the Chair of the Compliance Committee;

ii. recognized the need for timely submission of NIRs in order to ensure a good quality of the synthesis report and its timely submission for translation;

iii. noted with regret that several Parties did not submit their reports by the set deadline;

iv. urged Parties that did not submit their national implementation reports, namely Albania, Cyprus and Slovenia, to do so by latest 1 October 2014;

v. adopted decision on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.3) amending its paragraph 6 to read as follows “Notes with regret that Albania, Cyprus and Slovenia, all of which were Parties to the Protocol at the time of the deadline for submission of the implementation reports, failed to submit reports”;

vi. took note of the statements by Germany, EU, European ECO Forum and REC CEE.

b) Compliance mechanism

The Meeting of the Parties:

i. took note of the report of the Chair of the Compliance Committee on the Committee’s activities since the first session of the Meeting of the Parties as well as on outcomes of the open round table session;

ii. welcomed the offer of the Compliance Committee to prepare an informal guidance on reporting to assist the next reporting cycle;

iii. welcomed the activities outlined in the Committee’s document on the Possible role of the Compliance Committee in facilitating implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR/C.1/2014/Inf.1) and took note of statements by REC CEE and European ECO Forum;

iv. re-elected the following Compliance Committee members: Mr. Alistair McGlone, nominated by UK; Mr. Akos Fehervary, nominated by Hungary; and Mr. Merab Barbakadze, proposed by Georgia and nominated by Spain;

v. elected the following Compliance Committee members: Mr. Ralid Ajabboune, nominated by France; Ms. Nataša Kacic-Bartulovic, nominated by Croatia; and Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov, proposed by the European ECO Forum and Environment People Law (NGOs) and nominated by Norway;

vi. established the formal mandate for Compliance Committee documents and requested the secretariat to continue to produce the agendas, meeting reports, findings and other documents of the Compliance Committee as official documents so that they would be available in the three official languages of UNECE, without recourse to additional extrabudgetary resources.

Item 5: Programme of work and operation of the Protocol

a) Implementation of the work programme for 2011–2014

The Meeting of the Parties:

i. took note of the report on the implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011–2014 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/6) and the list of contributions and pledges for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs work programmes (AC/MOP-5/Inf.2-PRTR/MOPP-2/Inf.1));

ii. took note of information on pledges provided by Croatia, France, Germany and EU;

iii. expressed appreciation for the work done by the secretariat and recognized the difficulties posed by limited and unpredictable funding.

b) Strategic plan for 2015–2020

The Meeting of the Parties:

i. adopted decision II/2 on the strategic plan for 2015-2020 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.2);

ii. took note of statements by EU, OECD REC CEE and European ECO-Forum.

c) Work programme for 2015–2017

The Meeting of the Parties:

i. took note of statements by EU, REC CEE and European ECO-Forum;

ii. reiterated its requests that documents for meetings of governing and subsidiary Protocol's bodies as well as the Global round table on PRTRs organized under the auspices of the Protocol, should be processed, translated and published by the United Nations services and be made available in the three official languages of the UNECE without recourse to additional extra-budgetary resources;

iii. adopted decision II/3 on the work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.4).

d) Financial arrangements

The Meeting of the Parties:

i. took note of statements by Armenia, Norway, Switzerland, EU and European ECO Forum;

ii. adopted decision II/4 on financial arrangements under the Protocol as amended at the meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/CRP.2).

Item 6: Election of officers and other members of the Bureau

The Meeting of the Parties elected by consensus:

i.

- Ms. Tina Skarman (Sweden) as Chair
- Mr. Oyvind Hetland (Norway) and
- Ms. Ulrike Schüler (Germany) as Vice-Chairs

from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting, in accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure.

ii. the following members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Parties in accordance with rule 22, paragraph 1(b):

- Ms. Carmen Canales (Spain)
- Ms. Manuela Musella (EU)
- Mr. Nebojsa Redzic (Serbia)
- Mr. Roland Ritter (Switzerland)

iii. took note of the appointment by the European ECO Forum of Ms. Mara Silina (NGO) to attend the meetings of the Bureau as an observer invited by the Bureau, in accordance with paragraph 3 of decision I/1;

Item 7: Date and venue of the third ordinary session

The Meeting of the Parties:

i. decided to hold its next ordinary session in 2017;

ii. mandated the Working Group of the Parties to consider at its next meeting a possible date and venue for the third ordinary session.

Item 9: Review and adoption of decisions

Based on the discussion under the preceding agenda items, the Meeting of the Parties adopted the major outcomes and decisions presented by the Chair at the session, as contained in this document (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/CRP.3), and requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, to finalize the report and incorporate these adopted outcomes and decisions.
