

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

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Possible role of the Compliance Committee in facilitating implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers¹

Note by the Chair of the Compliance Committee

1. The Committee at its second meeting (Geneva, 1-2 April 2014) considered the first round of reports on national implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (“PRTRs”). The Committee agreed that the reports provided a good basis for identifying major trends and challenges in relation to the implementation of the Protocol which contains a high level of technical detail: the Committee could help Parties and non-Parties to engage with this detail and thus play an important role in facilitating the Protocol’s implementation². The Committee agreed to discuss a prospective facilitative role further through electronic means and at the third meeting of the Committee with a view to making a proposal to the attention of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its second session (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 3-4 July 2014).

2. This note outlines possible areas of the future facilitative work by the Committee as well as possible means to support it. The document is intended to provide the basis for discussion of the subject matter by the Committee’s members and, if the Committee agree, for a proposal to the Meeting of the Parties.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

² The Committee has a broad mandate to promote and improve compliance with the Protocol. Not only do the structure and functions of the Committee provide for it to examine any compliance issues not expressly referred to in its functions (see paragraph 14(b) of the annex to Decision I/2) but the Committee may also carry out any other functions that may be assigned to it by the Meeting of the Parties (see paragraph 13(e)).

I. Areas of work

1.1 Addressing systemic issues

3. The Committee could undertake a technical assessment of the Protocol's provisions, identify the systemic challenges to full implementation of the Protocol and develop recommendations on how to address them. Challenges identified through the first reporting cycle provide a good basis for this work. The Committee would also analyse those national implementation reports of the 2014 reporting cycle that were not submitted in time to be considered for the synthesis report.

4. Technical assessment, identification of challenges and developing of recommendations will be done through a participatory process involving Parties, Signatories, interested States, as well as NGOs, international partner organisations and other stakeholders. The Committee would carry out this work in close cooperation with the Protocol's Bureau and the results will be reported to the Working Group of the Parties and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The outcomes of this work would be used as a basis for the two areas of work described below.

1.2 Providing advisory support

5. Parties and other States willing to accede to the Protocol would be able to seek advisory support from the Committee with regard to compliance with and implementation of the Protocol. This may include advice on legislative and other regulatory matters.

1.3 Strengthening expert capacities

6. Members of the Committee can be invited to provide support to different events, such as workshops and training, aimed at strengthening the capacity of national experts. The needs described in 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.6³), could be taken into account.

II. Financial and other support

7. There may be several sources of financial and other support could be multiple which could include, as appropriate, funding through the Protocol's work programme for 2015-2017 ((ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/L.4⁴; work area A - Compliance mechanism; work area G - Technical assessment of provisions of the Protocol) as well as the following:

³ Available from http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2_docs.html.

⁴ Available from http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2_docs.html.

(a) Different modalities for the provision of technical assistance described in the note on technical assistance and resources (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2012/4);⁵

(b) Support from partner organizations participating in capacity-building coordination under the Aarhus Convention⁶ and in the International PRTR Coordinating Group,⁷ such as the Regional Environmental Centres, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Development Programme, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Environment Programme/Global Environment Facility, etc.;

(c) National industry and international bodies, including the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and the European Environment Agency;

(d) Funds of international financial institutions;

(e) Other international technical assistance.

⁵ Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28225>.

⁶ See <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/oa.html>.

⁷ See <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr/intlcgimages/about.html>.