



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 September 2015

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

Working Group of the Parties

Fourth meeting

Madrid, 26 November 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth meeting

To be held in Madrid, starting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday,
26 November 2015*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
3. Designation of national focal points.
4. Promotion and capacity-building:
 - (a) Synergies with partner organizations;
 - (b) Subregional workshops;

* As part of the accreditation procedures, delegates are requested to register online before 10 November 2015 through the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=CCID1s>. Participants requiring a personal invitation letter for visa purposes should click on the “visa required” option and register for the meeting as early as possible, taking into account the period required to obtain the visa. Participants that are applying for financial support should register before 20 September 2015 and submit the completed financial support form to the secretariat by e-mail (public.participation@unece.org) before the same date.



- (c) Electronic tools;
 - (d) Global promotion of the Protocol;
 - (e) Other relevant activities.
5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms.
 6. Implementation of the work programmes for 2011–2014 and 2015–2017, including financial matters.
 7. Third session of the Meeting of the Parties.
 8. Calendar of meetings.
 9. Other business.
 10. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Timing: 9.30–9:40 a.m.

The Chair will make an introductory statement. The Working Group of the Parties to 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 (Aarhus Convention) will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.¹

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth meeting (ECE/WG.PRTR/2015/1)

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Timing: 9:40–9:50 a.m.

The Working Group will consider an overview of the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments concerning the ratification, acceptance or approval of or accession to the Protocol on PRTRs in their respective countries.

3. Designation of national focal points

Timing: 9:50–10 a.m.

The Working Group will consider an overview of the status of designation of national focal points. Delegations will be invited to report on any developments concerning the designation of national focal points.

¹ All documentation for the meeting will be made available on a dedicated webpage on the Protocol's website [http://www.unece.org/prtrwgp4#/#/](http://www.unece.org/prtrwgp4#/).

Documentation

Overview of designation of national focal points (PRTR/WG.1/2015/Inf.1)

4. Promotion and capacity-building

(a) Synergies with partner organizations

Timing: 10–10:50 a.m.

The Chair will update the Working Group on the outcomes of the informal meetings of the representatives of the governing bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements, held on 27 October 2014 and 13 April 2015 in Geneva.²

The Working Group will also be briefed on the activities carried out by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Task Force on PRTRs, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and other partner organizations of relevance to the Protocol's work programme.

(b) Subregional workshops

Timing: 10:50–11:05 a.m.

The Working Group will be informed of developments in relation to the holding of possible subregional workshops.

(c) Electronic tools

Timing: 11:05–11:15 a.m.

The Working Group will be briefed on recent developments regarding electronic tools, including the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy and the PRTR.net global portal, and on the cooperation between ECE, OECD, UNITAR and GRID-Arendal in that regard.

(d) Global promotion of the Protocol

Timing: 11:15–11:50 a.m.

The Working Group will consider the outcomes of the joint global round table on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) to be organized under the auspices of OECD and ECE, in cooperation with UNITAR and UNEP, from 25 to 26 November 2015 in Madrid. The Working Group will also consider other relevant developments.

(e) Other relevant activities

Timing: 11.50 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Delegations will be invited to consider other relevant capacity-building and promotion activities, including in relation to the implementation of the proposals contained in the document on the promotion of the Protocol in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.³

² See <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/informal-networks.html>.

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

Documentation

Report on implementation of the work programmes of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011–2014 and 2015-2017 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/3)

Promotion of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/4/Add.2)

5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms

Timing: 2–3:30 p.m.

The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the recent meetings of the Compliance Committee.

The Working Group will consider the status of submission of national implementation reports since the second session of the Meeting of the Parties (Maastricht, the Netherlands, 2–4 July 2014).

The Working Group will be invited to consider the following draft documents prepared by the Compliance Committee:

(a) Guidance for reporting on implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers;

(b) Systemic issues concerning the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and recommendations on how to address them.

Documentation

Reports of the Compliance Committee on its third and fourth meetings (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2014/4 and ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2015/2)

Draft systemic issues concerning the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and recommendations on how to address them (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/5)

Draft guidance for reporting on implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/6)

Report on implementation of the work programmes of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011–2014 and 2015-2017 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/3)

6. Implementation of the work programmes for 2011–2014 and 2015-2017, including financial matters

Timing: 3:30–4 p.m.

The Working Group will consider the status of implementation of the Protocol's work programmes for 2011–2014 and 2015–2017, taking into consideration the outcomes of the discussion held under previous items.

The Working Group will be informed about the contributions received to support the implementation of the Protocol's current work programme and the expenditures incurred during 2014 and projected for 2015–2016. Delegations will be invited to make pledges to support implementation of the work programme.

Documentation

Report on implementation of the work programmes of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011–2014 and 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/3)

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the work programmes of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2011–2014 and 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/4)

7. Third session of the Meeting of the Parties

Timing: 4–4:30 p.m.

The Working Group will be invited to consider possible options for the hosting, dates and format of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, to be held in 2017.

8. Calendar of meetings

Timing: 4:30–4:35 p.m.

The Working Group will be informed about tentative calendar of meetings for 2016.

9. Other business

Timing: 4:35–4:40 p.m.

Delegates wishing to suggest points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

10. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting

Timing: 5:15–6 p.m.⁴

The Working Group is expected to adopt the decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

⁴ There will be a coffee break between 16:40 p.m. and 17:15 p.m. to finalize the list of decisions. To ensure equal opportunities for English-, French- and Russian-speaking delegations while saving paper, the draft text of the meeting decisions and outcomes will be projected on a screen around 45 minutes before the close of the meeting, and will be presented by the Chair verbally, thereby allowing for interpretation. The list of decisions will be distributed to participants by e-mail after the meeting.