

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on  
Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)

Working Group of the Parties  
Fourth meeting  
Madrid, 26 November 2015

**DECISIONS AND MAJOR OUTCOMES<sup>1</sup>**  
as adopted by the Working Group at its fourth meeting

**Item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

The Working Group:

- i) took note of the information provided by the Chair;
- ii) adopted the agenda as set out in document ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/1.

**Item 2: Status of ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs**

The Working Group:

- i) took note of the report by the secretariat on the status of ratification of the PRTR Protocol and information provided by the delegations;
- ii) encouraged Signatories and other interested States to proceed with accession to the Protocol as soon as possible.

**Item 3: Designation of National Focal Points**

The Working Group took note of the report prepared by the secretariat on the status of designation of National Focal Points (PRTR/WG.1/2015/Inf.1), in accordance with the decision of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (Report of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2, para.32), and called upon those Governments, which have not designated a focal point to date, to proceed with designation as soon as possible.

**Item 4: Promotion and capacity-building**

**a) Synergies with partner organizations**

The Working Group:

- i) took note of the report by the Chair on the informal process between chairs of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

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

ii) took note of the reports by OECD, UNEP, UNITAR and REC CEE on their PRTR-related activities and thanked all partner organisations for support provided to further implementation of PRTR systems thereby strengthening countries' capacities to accede to the Protocol on PRTRs as well as countries and organisations that supported these activities financially;

iii) called upon partner organisations and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to cooperate closely where possible to create synergies to further the implementation of the projects and programmes related to PRTRs;

iv) called upon Governments to strengthen cooperation between experts dealing with the Protocol on PRTRs and those dealing with the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), UNEP Conventions on Chemicals and other relevant agreements, as well as those involved in projects carried out by international organisations as to ensure coordination at national level;

v) encouraged Governments and stakeholders to consider implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs and Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in synergy.

#### **b) Subregional workshops**

The Working Group:

i) took note of the information provided by the secretariat and delegations and mandated the secretariat to organize a subregional workshop for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2016;

ii) encouraged Governments and stakeholders to consider supporting the workshop through in-kind or financial contributions.

#### **c) Electronic tools**

The Working Group:

i) requested the secretariat to continue working closely with OECD and UNITAR as to ensure the effective use of PRTR.net and PRTR-Learn;

ii) encouraged Governments and stakeholders to consider to financially support the upgrade of PRTR.net.

#### **d) Global promotion of the Protocol**

The Working Group:

- i) welcomed the joint efforts of UNECE and OECD in organising the Global Round table on PRTRs and their cooperation with UNEP and UNITAR;
- ii) took note of the outcomes of the joint Global Round table on PRTRs and requested the secretariat to prepare, in cooperation with OECD, a formal report on the Global Round table in three UNECE languages for its submission to the Working Group's next meeting;
- iii) mandated the Bureau and the secretariat to continue global promotion of the Protocol;
- iv) mandated the Bureau and the secretariat to explore an opportunity for organising a third global event in the future;
- v) mandated the Bureau with the support of the secretariat to develop a note on the links between the Protocol on PRTRs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### **e) Other relevant activities**

The Working Group:

- i) took note of the report on the Results of the survey on implementation of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) and promotion of the Protocol on PRTRs in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (PRTR/WG.1/2015/Inf.2);
- ii) thanked those countries that responded to the survey and thanked Armenia and Belarus for presenting its outcomes.

#### **Item 5: Compliance and reporting mechanism**

The Working Group:

- i) agreed that participants may send their written comments to the two documents (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/5, ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/6) by 20 January 2016;
- ii) requested the Chair of the Compliance Committee in cooperation with the Bureau and with support from the secretariat to finalize the two documents (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/5, ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2015/6) in the light of the comments provided and to submit them to the Working Group of the Parties at its fifth meeting and consequently to the Meeting of the Parties at its third session in 2017 for its consideration;

iii) thanked the European ECO-Forum for conducting the survey on storage of hazardous substances and for reporting its preliminary results;

iv) took note of the information on the status of national implementation reports (NIRs) submitted since the second session of the Meeting of the Parties, 3-4 July 2014;

v) requested Slovenia to submit its NIR urgently.

#### **Item 6: Implementation of the work programmes for 2011–2014 and 2015–2017, including financial matters**

The Working Group:

i) took note of the 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);

ii) took note of the 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) as well as the note on contributions received between 15 August - 16 November 2015 (PRTR/WG.1/2015/Inf.3);

iii) took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the human and financial resource situation of the secretariat and shared information on expected contributions;

iv) took note of the information provided by the Chair on the discontinuation of the G administrative support post funded from 13% programme support costs and expressed its strong concern with regard to this decision, requesting ECE to explore opportunity to reconsider it in the future as to assign this post support to the Protocol on PRTRs;

v) expressed its appreciation for the work done by the secretariat and recognizes the difficulties posed by limited and unpredictable funding;

vi) expressed its concern with regard to the shortage of contributions and low number of pledges.

#### **Item 7: Third session of the Meeting of the Parties**

The Working Group:

i) took note of the information provided by the secretariat regarding the outcomes of the latest meeting of the Convention's Working Group of the Parties;

ii) took note of possible dates suggested by the secretariat for the third ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties at the end of June or in end-September 2017. It welcomed the preliminary interest expressed by the Government of Montenegro to host the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, and requested the secretariat to further liaise with the Government of Montenegro on that matter;

iii) called on other interested Parties to inform the secretariat by January 2016 about their potential interest in hosting the meeting, also taking into consideration that the session will be organized back to back with the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, and mandated the secretariat to liaise with potentially interested Parties on the hosting matter;

iv) mandated the Bureau to take the decision on the hosting and timing prior to the next meeting of the Working Group, as appropriate, and to report to the next meeting of the Working Group accordingly.

#### **Item 8: Calendar of meetings**

The Working Group took note of the tentative schedule of relevant meetings planned for 2016.

#### **Item 10: Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting**

The Working Group adopted the major outcomes and decisions presented by the Chair at the meeting (as contained in this document) and requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, to finalize the report and incorporate these adopted outcomes and decisions.

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