



# Economic and Social Council

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## 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

**Ninth meeting**  
Geneva, 28 and 29 April 2021

## Report of the Compliance Committee on its ninth meeting

### Introduction

1. The ninth 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 (Aarhus Convention) took place in virtual format, on 28 and 29 April 2021. All nine Committee members were present at the meeting: Mr. Merab Barbakadze (Georgia); Mr. Stéphane Bernaudon (France); Mr. Mario Božičević (Croatia); Mr. Akos Fehervary (Hungary); Mr. Fritz Kroiss (Austria); Mr. Juan Luis Martin Ortega (Spain) (Chair); Mr. Gor Movsisyan (Armenia) (Vice-Chair); Ms. Azemine Shakiri (North Macedonia); and Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov (Ukraine).

### I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. Mr. Ortega (Chair) opened the meeting and the Compliance Committee adopted its agenda, as set out in document ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2021/1.

3. Pursuant to the departure of Ms. Nataša Kacic-Bartulovic (Croatia) and Mr. Nicolas Encausse (France), in line with paragraph 9 of the annex to decision I/2 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1), the Bureau appointed Mr. Mario Božičević (Croatia) and Mr. Stéphane Bernaudon (France) as members of the Compliance Committee through the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties; and the Committee approved their appointment, through an electronic decision-making procedure prior to the meeting. The secretariat also collected the signed solemn declarations from the new members of the Committee, who read them at the meeting. The Committee took note of the appointment of its new members: Mr. Božičević and Mr. Bernaudon, who replaced Ms. Kacic-Bartulovic and Mr. Encausse, respectively.



## **II. Draft guide to the Compliance Committee of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers**

4. The Committee adopted the draft guide to the Compliance Committee of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, as amended at the meeting, and requested the secretariat to upload it on the Committee's web page.<sup>1</sup>

## **III. Submissions, referrals and communications**

5. The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat that there had been no submissions or referrals since the Committee's eighth meeting (Geneva (online), 30 and 31 March 2020). The secretariat reported that one communication concerning Ukraine (PRE/PRTRPCC/C/2020/1) had been submitted to the Committee and posted on the Committee's web page.<sup>2</sup>

6. The Chair informed participants that Mr. Movsisyan was the curator for the said communication. He also informed participants that the Committee had considered a possible conflict of interests of Mr. Skrylnikov with regard to the communication and agreed that he had no conflict of interest.

7. The curator then provided a brief introduction to the communication, which was followed by statements by the communicant and an observer, Mr. Yves Lador (Earthjustice). The Party concerned was not present at the meeting.

8. After considering in closed session the information received, the Committee determined the communication to be admissible in accordance with paragraph 20 of the annex to decision I/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

## **IV. National pollutant release and transfer registers in the European Union member States**

9. The Committee at its eighth meeting had considered the draft findings presented by the curator and agreed that it required more information in order to further explore the issue. To that end, taking into consideration the related information provided by Finland in its 2017 national implementation report, the Committee agreed to send questions to Finland in order to further clarify the matter (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2020/2, paras. 5–7).<sup>3</sup>

10. The Committee considered the response received from Finland<sup>4</sup> and, noting several issues of potential non-compliance, but at the same time observing a number of measures that Finland was currently implementing or planning to implement, agreed to defer preparation of draft findings to a later stage. Furthermore, pursuant to paragraphs 14 (b) and 40 (a) and (e) of the annex to decision I/2, the Committee agreed to send a letter to Finland informing it about the Committee's decision and providing Finland with advice containing recommendations on specific measures so as to facilitate assistance regarding its compliance with the Protocol.

11. Furthermore, the Committee agreed to address relevant observations identified in 2021 national implementation reports submitted by Parties and address them in the synthesis report, along with general recommendations regarding the matter of national pollutant release and transfer registers in the European Union member States.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Guide\\_PRTR-Protocol\\_CC\\_May2021.pdf](https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Guide_PRTR-Protocol_CC_May2021.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/cc/communications-from-the-public>.

<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/eighth-compliance-committee-under-prtr-protocol>.

<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/protocol-bodies/cc/correspondence>.

## **V. Adoption of the outcomes of the meeting**

12. The Committee adopted the meeting's outcomes as 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.

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