

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

Bureau
Twentieth meeting
Online, 29 June 2021

Report of the twentieth meeting of the Bureau¹

Attendance

Bureau members: Ms. Tina Skårman (Sweden, Chair), Mr. Alex Radway (European Union), Mr. Nebojsa Redzic (Serbia), Mr. Roland Ritter (Switzerland) and Ms. Viktoriya Kyreieva (Ukraine).
Observers: Ms. Mara Silina (European ECO-Forum).
Apologies: Ms. Marie-Rose van den Hende (Belgium, Vice-Chair), Ms. Ulrike Schüler (Germany, Vice-Chair).

I. Opening and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair opened the meeting and the Bureau adopted the provisional agenda.

II. Status of ratification of the Protocol

2. The Bureau took note of the report by the secretariat, which confirmed that since the eighth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (Geneva, 16 and 18 December 2020) no new ratification of the Protocol had occurred.

III. Designation of national focal points

3. The Bureau took note of the report by the secretariat regarding nominations of national focal points. The Bureau expressed its concerns with regard to pending nominations and requested the secretariat to follow-up on the matter with the respective Parties.

IV. Preparation of the synthesis report

4. The Bureau considered the draft 2021 synthesis report prepared by the Compliance Committee with the support of the secretariat and provided a number of comments on the draft. The Bureau agreed to submit any possible additional comments by 5 July 2021 and requested the secretariat to convey these comments to the Committee's Chair for his consideration.

V. Declaration

5. The Bureau took note of a report by the secretariat on recent developments with regard to the preparation of the Draft Declaration on Environmental Democracy for Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Development to be considered at the Joint High-level Segment under the auspices of the Protocol's and the Convention's Meetings of the Parties (Geneva, 21 October 2021). The Bureau approved, as revised, the document and requested the secretariat to finalize it for submission to the High-level Segment and to convey the Bureau's comments on the document to the Convention's Bureau for consideration.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

VI. High-level segment

6. The Bureau took note of the report by the secretariat on recent developments with regard to the preparation of the Joint High-level Segment. The Bureau shared their views and comments on the organization of the thematic session of the event, based on the draft outline for the High-level Segment, prepared in consultations with the two Chairs of the Convention and Protocol Bureaux and in line with the programme of the previous High-level Segment. The Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare the agenda and the programme for the thematic session for the High-level Segment.

VII. Organisational matters for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties

7. The Bureau discussed the draft agenda of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties and draft procedures for remote participation.² The Bureau approved the documents and requested the secretariat to finalize them for submission to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 22 October 2021).

VIII. Next meeting of the Bureau

8. The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting back-to-back with the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties in the week of 18 October 2021.

² Based on the draft operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making in eighth meeting of the Protocol's Working Group of the Parties due to extraordinary circumstances (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2020/12) adopted by the Working Group of the Parties at its eight meeting, held in Geneva, 16 and 18 December 2020.