

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

Twenty-first meeting

Online, 14 October 2021

Report of the twenty-first meeting of the Bureau¹

Attendance

Bureau members: Ms. Tina Skårman (Sweden, Chair), Mr. Alex Radway (European Union), Mr. Nebojsa Redzic (Serbia) and Mr. Roland Ritter (Switzerland).

Observers: Ms. Mara Silina (European ECO-Forum).

Apologies: Ms. Marie-Rose van den Hende (Belgium, Vice-Chair), Ms. Viktoria Kyreieva (Ukraine), 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. Open issues with regards to documents for decision-making to be considered by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session

2. The secretariat recalled that a message had been sent to all participants of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 21 and 22 October 2021) informing them about the Draft operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making in the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol due to extraordinary circumstances (ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/7) and about an Explanatory note regarding comments by the EU and its Member States on Draft operating procedures (AC/MOP-7/Inf.5-PRTR/MOP-4/Inf.2).

3. The Bureau considered several issues with regard to draft decisions. The Bureau noted that Draft decision IV/1 on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/12) will require factual revisions as to reflect submission of one additional national implementation report by a Party. Turning to Draft decision IV/4 on financial arrangements under the Protocol on PRTRs (ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/11), the Bureau noted that this was the only document which contains text not agreed by the Working Group of the Parties, notably with regard to the scheme of contributions, the scale of assessment and the minimum amount of a contribution. With regard to the latter, the secretariat informed the Bureau about the related discussions on the subject matter under the Aarhus Convention, which included the possible raising of the minimum amount from \$500 to \$1000.

III. Organisational matters for the High-level Segment and the Protocol's fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties

4. The Bureau took note of a report by the secretariat on organizational matters regarding the Joint High-level Segment under the Meetings of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs (Geneva, 21 October 2021) and the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Specific attention was given to matters related to online participation by

¹ This document was not formally edited.

Parties in line with the Draft operating procedures to facilitate remote participation and decision-making in the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol due to extraordinary circumstances and the practicalities of holding a roll-call via a separate online platform to record an online participation by Parties prior to adoption of decisions at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

IV. Closing

5. The Chair thanked the Bureau for constructive work and the secretariat for its support and closed the meeting.

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