

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

First session

Geneva, 20–22 April 2010

Excerpt from the addendum to the 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/Add.1)*

Decision I/4

Adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making Procedures and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its first session held on 22 April 2010

Establishment of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling article 17, paragraph 2 (e), of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which states that the Meeting of the Parties shall establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary,

Recalling also decision I/6 on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes and on the work programme for 2011–2014,

Recognizing the need for an effective structure to oversee activities under the auspices of the Protocol between sessions of the Meeting of the Parties,

Recognizing also the need to ensure, when not already done so by another body, the exchange of information on technical issues dealing with practical implementation of the Protocol,

Convinced that the Bureau needs assistance and advice when preparing the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol,

Believing that a subsidiary body is the best way to ensure the full participation of stakeholders in the preparation of the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties,

* The full text of the addendum to the 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/Add.1) is available in English at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/docs/ece_mp.prtr_2010_2_Add.1_e.pdf, in French at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/docs/ece_mp.prtr_2010_2_Add.1_f.pdf and in Russian at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/docs/ece_mp.prtr_2010_2_Add.1_r.pdf.

1. *Establishes* an open-ended ad hoc subsidiary body, to be called the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol;
 2. *Requests* the Working Group:
 - (a) To oversee the implementation of the work programme for the Protocol;
 - (b) To prepare the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties;
 - (c) While avoiding duplication with existing technical assistance activities, to exchange information on technical issues dealing with practical implementation of the Protocol, such as:
 - (i) Identification of pollutant release and transfer registers reporting facilities;
 - (ii) Use of electronic tools;
 - (iii) Determination of methods for measuring, calculating or estimating releases and transfers;
 - (iv) Identification of releases from diffuse sources;
 - (v) Quality assessment of pollutant release and transfer registers data;
 - (vi) Collection and assessment of data by authorities;
 - (vii) Exploration of methodologies by which the information can be presented to the public;
 - (d) To exchange examples of good practices on public participation in the development of pollutant release and transfer registers;
 - (e) To assess the guidance document on implementation of the Protocol and, if necessary, to update it;
 - (f) To make proposals and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties as it considers necessary for the achievement of the purposes of the Protocol;
 3. *Also requests* the Working Group to meet no less than once during the intersessional period, while recognizing that more frequent meetings may be necessary in order for the Working Group to be able to fulfil its tasks, and to organize its work, within the means available, in the way that it deems most effective;
 4. *Further requests* the officers and Bureau of the Meeting to serve as the officers and the Bureau of the Working Group.
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