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Compliance Committee under the Protocol on PRTRs Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

## Response to considerations and advice from the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on PRTRs

On 15 October 2021 the Ministry of the Environment received a letter from the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on PRTRs Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers which included considerations and advice. The Ministry supplements its earlier responses with new information on the development of the national PRTR register.

All PRTR data have been collected in a database since 2003. Emission data and data of waste transfers provided regularly by facility operators are checked by competent authorities and then stored in the YLVA database, formerly VAHTI database. The database includes data on every activity that needs an environmental permit, including PRTR facilities. These data as well as inspection reports have been constantly public and available by request. Also data on environmental permit applications and decisions have been public all the time. A web service for environmental permitting in both national languages has been in use for several years and a new version was launched on 2020 ([ylupa.avi.fi](http://ylupa.avi.fi)). Also large selection of environmental data including data on some releases have been published in a web service [www.ymparisto.fi](http://www.ymparisto.fi), including a service of the impact on air quality from diffuse sources in year 2020.

After providing annually data to the E-PRTR in timely manner Finland launched a web-based PRTR service on 15 December 2021, with search functions through facilities, releases, location and a map (FINPRTR, [www.PRTR.fi](http://www.PRTR.fi)). Search functions are quite easy to use and data is easily available. FINPRTR is available in Finnish, Swedish and English. Finnish Environment Institute built the website on the request from the Ministry of the Environment.

The PRTR system was designed with representatives from the industry and authorities and was twice sent for comments to the national NGOs, Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto and Natur och miljö. The launch of the website was made public through a press release and was informed on the environmental authorities' websites. Feedback on data and other content can be sent to regional supervisory authorities (ELY Centres) and feedback on the technical functions or improvement proposals can be sent to the Finnish Environment Institute ([PRTR@syke.fi](mailto:PRTR@syke.fi)). Both authorities will receive feedback from the public constantly. All feedback will be examined and taken into consideration.

In 2022 the PRTR service will be completed by finetuning some of the search functions, e.g. possibility to select several years, to make graphs, to download data and by finetuning the presentation of data. Links to reference documents on best available techniques (BREFs) will be included as well as planning the linkage of environmental permits and inspection reports.

Data on year 2020 will be published in February 2022 leading to reporting time 14 months. As the need for up-to-date data is growing studies on streamlining the data gathering and data flow are

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underway. At the same time, issues with showing historical data caused by database change from VAHTI to YLVA will be examined, so that more historical data could be published. There are also plans for years 2023-24 that FINPRTR will be supplemented by inclusion of diffuse sources and possibly also by environmental and health related data.

Any further development of FINPRTR will be done in co-operation with relevant organisations, non-governmental organisations and authorities taking into account feedback from the public. In further development of the national PRTR the Ministry of the Environment and the Finnish Environment Institute will also participate in international co-operation on different platforms, e.g. UNECE PRTR, International Coordinating Group and OECD.

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Napsauta tähän hiirellä ja kirjoita liitteiden nimet kukin omalle rivilleen. Rivinvaihto enterillä.

Vastaanottajat

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Seuraavat henkilöt ovat allekirjoittaneet tämän asiakirjan sähköisesti /

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This document has been signed electronically by the following persons: