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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

Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 22 October 2021

Report of the Compliance Committee on its eleventh meeting

Introduction

1. The eleventh 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 hybrid format, on 22 October 2021. Four of the nine Committee members were present in person at the meeting: Mr. Merab Barbakadze (Georgia), Mr. Juan Luis Martín-Ortega (Spain) (Chair), Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov (Ukraine) and Mr. Gor Movsisyan (Armenia) (Vice-Chair). Mr. Stéphane Bernaudon (France), Mr. Fritz Kroiss (Austria) and Ms. Azemine Shakiri (North Macedonia) participated online. Mr. Mario Božičević (Croatia) and Mr. Ákos Fehérváry (Hungary) did not attend.

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. Mr. Martín-Ortega (Chair) opened the meeting and the Compliance Committee adopted its agenda, as set out in document ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2021/5. The Chair also reported on an omission in the translation of the above-mentioned document into French and Russian. Parts of the timetable had not been provided in the correct 24-hour format, as should have been the case for the French- and Russian-language versions.

II. Submissions, referrals and communications

3. The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat that there had been no submissions, referrals or communications since the Committee's tenth meeting (Geneva (online), 31 May and 1 June 2021).

III. Lessons learned from the third reporting cycle concerning the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

4. The Chair opened a discussion on the lessons learned from the third reporting cycle concerning the implementation of the Protocol to which members of the public and delegates from Parties, signatories and other stakeholders had been invited. In that regard, attention was drawn to the synthesis report on the implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/10), which served as background material for the discussion.

5. Pursuant to the lessons learned from the third reporting cycle, the Committee members discussed a number of different issues in relation to the upcoming reporting cycle. Subsequently, it was suggested that, from among those issues, the following be addressed in the future synthesis report: more explicit consideration of implementation of article 4 of the Protocol; the need to find ways to report on how issues raised in the previous reporting cycle had progressed in the interim; and assessment of the extent to which public participation in the preparation of national implementation reports had been ensured by Parties. The Committee also discussed whether a revision of the questions contained in the reporting format was needed and feasible.

6. The Committee concluded that it would further consider possible improvements for the upcoming fourth reporting cycle and for the preparation of the respective synthesis report at its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 1 and 2 March 2022).

IV. Adoption of the outcomes of the meeting

7. 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. The Chair thanked the outgoing Committee members, Mr. Barbakadze, Mr. Fehérváry and Mr. Skrylnikov, for their work in the Committee and closed the meeting.
