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**MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND ENERGY**

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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

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**Subject: Response to the Compliance Committee of the Protocol on Pollution Release and Transfers Registers**

Dear Sir,

As a response to your letter on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 please find attached response to your questions on the implementation of the Protocol on Pollution Release and Transfers Registers in Slovenia.

Yours sincerely

Tone Kvasič  
secretary

mag. Tanja Bolte  
Acting Director General  
Environment Directorate

## **Response to the Compliance Committee of the Protocol on Pollution Release and Transfer Registers regarding questions on National Implementation Report 2021**

### **Response to questions**

#### **1. Please provide further information on how Slovenia intends to implement the provisions of the PRTR Protocol?**

As it is indicated in its 2021 National Implementation Report (NIR) Slovenia does not have a national PRTR that would fully meet the obligations of the Protocol. Slovenia intends to fully implement the provisions of the PRTR protocol and has accepted new Environmental Protection Act – The Law on Environmental Protection (ZVO-2, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 44/22), where it is in article 155(4) stated that environmental information system in line with accepted international contracts includes Pollution Release and Transfer Register.

#### **2. If appropriate, please clarify what provisions of the PRTR Protocol will be met through E-PRTR and what provisions through integration of the PRTR system into existing national information systems?**

When completed, the provisions of the PRTR Protocol will be met through integration into national information system. Slovenia already started with the project of building the information system that will manage data and will deliver PRTR public portal. We have secured funds from recovery fund (NextGenerationEU) and have confirmed ongoing project (GreenSLO4D). Within the project activities the information system that will support the data flow (IS monitoring) will be built by the beginning of 2026. In this information system we will combine data from permitting with data which are reported by E-PRTR facilities and other facilities and installations as well.

At the same time, the renovation of the Slovenian Environmental Agency website will be co-financed from the same project, which will be completed earlier (beginning of 2025), which would allow us to publish the national PRTR portal already then. Currently we are finalising technical documentation and it is planned to publish public tender for information system establishment in coming 2-3 months.

Currently information on emissions and transfer of pollutants from Slovenian companies is available through the EEA European Industrial Emissions Portal: <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/#/home> only. Slovenia has on its »Central government website for easy access to comprehensive information on the organisation and functioning of the state administration« dedicated E-PRTR web page (<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/storitve/porocanje-v-evropski-register-izpustov-in-prenosov-onesnazeval-e-ripo/>) with instructions for local companies how to submit E-PRTR report to the competent authority with relevant legislation. In addition, on that web page there is link to the EEA European Industrial Emissions Portal with explanation for public in Slovenian language about searching possibilities of national releases and transfers. In addition, there is information for public how to access to PRTR information by any other means (e.g. not by direct electronic means). Competent authority upon request provides PRTR information as soon as possible by any other means (in line with article 11.2 and 11.3 of the Protocol). In addition to that locations of SEVESO facilities, IED facilities, waste water releases from industrial plants and landfills along with some basic information is accessible through environmental atlas [http://gis.arso.gov.si/atlasokolja/profile.aspx?id=Atlas\\_Okolja\\_AXL](http://gis.arso.gov.si/atlasokolja/profile.aspx?id=Atlas_Okolja_AXL) .

#### **3. Please clarify how Slovenia intends to meet the provisions of Article 5.1. in the environmental information system or a yet to establish national PRTR portal?**

Slovenia will establish national PRTR portal on dedicated web page of the competent authority within the project of renovation of Slovenian Environmental Agency website. The data will be presented with the possibility that releases and transfers can be searched and identified as in article 5.1.

Currently PRTR data from Slovenia is searchable through the E-PRTR via EEA European Industrial Emissions Portal.

**4. As appropriate, please provide a time schedule for the development of the search modules that would allow to search the national PRTR data on a national portal.**

Slovenia has plan and will establish national PRTR portal on dedicated web page of the competent authority (Slovenian Environment Agency) and will provide search modules that would allow to search national PRTR data in two years from now in 1stQ 2025. In order to publish search module we will have to migrate existing data into relational database. Building of that database is a part of project GreenSLO4D. Next steps are as following:

- Technical documentation for database and management tools (IS monitoring) prepared end of 03 2023
- Public tender published for IS monitoring published 04 2023
- Contract for IS monitoring signed expected 07 2023
- Information system developed IS monitoring 06 2026
- Operational plan for renovation of the Slovenian Environmental Agency website finished 06 2023
- Public tender published for new cms for website 09 2023
- Contract for cms signed expected 12 2023
- Migration of web site content from 06 2024
- PRTR portal 1<sup>st</sup> version beginning of 2025

Currently PRTR data from Slovenia is searchable through the EEA E-PRTR only.

**5. Please clarify if Slovenia considers that the current national environmental information system described in the 2021 NIR meets the requirements of article 5.1. of the PRTR protocol?**

Currently PRTR data from Slovenia is searchable through the EEA European Industrial Emissions Portal: <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/#/home>, which from technical point of view (only) provides PRTR data as in article 5.1. As mentioned, Slovenia will establish national PRTR portal which would meet the requirements of article 5.1 of the PRTR protocol in Slovenian language.

**6. Please clarify how the integration of the national PRTR system into existing information systems is being designed to ease public access, ensuring information on the register is continuously and immediately available through electronic means?**

Public access through electronics means to national PRTR data is currently available through the EEA European Industrial Emissions Portal: <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/#/home> only. Slovenia has on its »Central website for easy access to comprehensive information on the organisation and functioning of the state administration« dedicated E-PRTR web page (<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/storitve/porocanje-v-evropski-register-izpustov-in-prenosov-onesnazeval-e-ripo/>) with instructions for local companies how to submit E-PRTR report to the competent authority with relevant legislation. In addition, on that web page there is link to EEA European Industrial Emissions Portal with explanation for public about searching possibilities of national releases and transfers. In addition, there is information for public how to access to PRTR information by any other means (e.g. not by direct electronic means). Competent authority upon request provides PRTR information as soon as possible by any other means (in line with article 11.2 and 11.3 of the Protocol).

Other than via the EEA European Industrial Emissions Portal, Slovenia currently does not have information system designed to ease public access. As mentioned, Slovenia already started with the project of building the information system that will support national PRTR portal.

**7. Please clarify if Slovenia considers that information in English is sufficient to ensure proper information and dissemination of the data at national level?**

Public access to national PRTR data through electronics means is currently available in English language only through the European Industrial Emissions Portal: <https://industry.eea.europa.eu/#/home> only. In dedicated web page of the competent authority there is link to EEA European Industrial Emissions Portal with explanation for public about searching possibilities of national releases and

transfers – in Slovenian language. In addition, public access by any other means in line with article 11(2) and 11(3) is provided by competent authority in Slovenian language. Slovenia will establish national PRTR portal in Slovenian language.

**8. Please provide further details on how the integration of the national PRTR system into existing information systems will meet the Protocol requirements related to:**

**(a) article 11 of the Protocol; and**

**(b) article 4(h) of the Protocol.**

**Please provide substantiation for your answers to questions by referencing to any relevant legislation, measures, and practice, when appropriate.**

The European PRTR contains all data required by the PRTR Protocol and is available to Slovenian citizen as required by the PRTR protocol. Slovenia will establish (new) web based national PRTR portal in Slovenian language and with that ensuring that PRTR data will be publicly accessible in Slovenian language too.

Design and functionality of national PRTR portal will take into account public needs gathered in dialogue with environmental NGO-s.

**9. Please provide further information on how public participation is ensured in PRTR development? Further, please clarify how public participation is being ensured in the integration of the national PRTR system into existing information systems?**

Article 234 of the Environmental Protection Act (O.J, no. 44/22 and 18/23 – ZDU-10), available at <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO8286>) establishes the "Council for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection", which is an advisory body to the Minister responsible for the environment for assessing policies in the field of environmental protection. The Council includes representatives of academic institutions, business and NGOs working in the field of the environment. The draft national PRTR portal will be presented to the Council and the NGOs represented on the Council will be asked to invite other interested environmental NGOs to participate.

**10. Please clarify what national legislation ensure appropriate opportunities for public participation in the development of the national pollutant release and transfer register?**

In accordance with Article 70 of the Environmental Protection Act, the Ministry responsible for environmental protection must, in the process of adopting regulations governing the environment, provide the public with the opportunity to become acquainted with the draft regulation and to give opinions and comments for a period of at least 30 days.

In accordance with Article 234 of the Environmental Protection Act, the Council for Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection participates in the formulation of environmental protection policies as a consultative body of the Minister responsible for environmental protection.

The Council's tasks are to consider and adopt positions and to give opinions and initiatives to the Minister, in particular on:

1. the situation and trends in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development at home and abroad;
2. strategies, programmes and plans in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development;
3. the legislative framework for environmental protection and sustainable development;
4. the activities of the State and municipalities in relation to environmental protection and sustainable development;
5. specific pressing environmental pollution and sustainable development issues; and
6. public initiatives.