



# Economic and Social Council

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## 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

### Compliance Committee

#### Thirteenth meeting

Geneva, 7 and 8 March 2023

## Report of the Compliance Committee on its thirteenth meeting

### Introduction

1. The thirteenth 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 7 and 8 March 2023. Seven of the eight Committee members were present at the meeting: Mr. Stéphane Bernaudon (France), Ms. Tina Janjatovic (Serbia), Mr. Juan Luis Martín Ortega (Spain) (Chair), Mr. Gor Movsisyan (Armenia) (Vice-Chair), Ms. Azemine Shakiri (North Macedonia), Ms. Kristina Tekić (Croatia) and Ms. Teresa Weber (Austria). Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Jordanov (Republic of Moldova) 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 provisional agenda (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2023/1).

### II. Introduction of and solemn declaration by new Committee members

3. Pursuant to the departure of Mr. Fritz Kroiss (Austria), in line with paragraph 9 of the annex to decision I/2 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1), the Bureau appointed Ms. Weber (Austria) as a member of the Compliance Committee through the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties; and the Committee approved her appointment. Both decisions were taken through an electronic decision-making procedure prior to the meeting. The new member read out the solemn declaration, which she had signed and submitted to the secretariat in advance

of the meeting.<sup>1</sup> The Committee took note of the appointment of and welcomed Ms. Weber as a new member of the Committee.

### III. Submissions, referrals, communications and advice

4. The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat that there had been no submissions, referrals or new communications, and that one request for advisory support had been submitted by Ukraine (PRTRPCC/A/2022/1 (Ukraine)) since the Committee's twelfth meeting (Geneva (online), 1 March 2022).

5. The Committee held hearings with regard to both communication PRTRPCC/C/2020/1 (Ukraine)<sup>2</sup> and request for advisory support PRTRPCC/A/2022/1 (Ukraine),<sup>3</sup> with the presence of the Party concerned and the communicant for communication PRTRPCC/C/2020/1 (Ukraine). The Committee clarified a number of issues and considered that it required more information with regard to both communication PRTRPCC/C/2020/1 (Ukraine) and request for advisory support PRTRPCC/A/2022/1 (Ukraine). The Committee agreed to send questions to the Party concerned to seek additional information. The Committee would continue its deliberations on:

(a) The draft findings on the communication, taking into account the information received. Once draft findings had been prepared, they would be sent to the Party concerned and to the communicant for comments;

(b) The advice with regard to the Law of Ukraine on the National Register of Emissions and Transfer of Pollutants, taking into account the information received. Once the draft advice was prepared, it would be sent to the Party concerned for possible comments; the communicant would be informed in that regard and would have an opportunity to provide its comments on the draft advice.

### IV. National pollutant release and transfer registers in the European Union member States

6. The Chair recalled that, at its twelfth meeting, the Committee had invited Finland to provide the Committee with further updates by 1 February of 2023, 2024 and 2025.<sup>4</sup> Noting the update provided by Finland, the Committee expressed its appreciation to Finland for its continuing constructive cooperation on the matter and agreed to send a letter to Finland asking for clarification regarding several issues.

7. Based on information received through 2021 national implementation reports and the synthesis report,<sup>5</sup> the Committee at its twelfth meeting had also decided to send initial letters to Estonia, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia<sup>6</sup> with questions related to the pollutant release and transfer register systems in those countries and, as needed, to provide in due course its advice to the Parties concerned pursuant to paragraphs 14 (b) and 40 (a) and (e) of the annex to decision I/2.<sup>7</sup>

8. The Committee expressed its appreciation to Estonia, Portugal and Slovenia for their constructive cooperation on the matter, considered the answers provided by the above-mentioned Parties, and, noting several issues of potential non-compliance, but at the same time observing a number of measures that the Parties were currently implementing or planning to implement, agreed to provide those Parties with advice so as to facilitate assistance regarding their compliance with the Protocol.

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<sup>1</sup> See ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/2, annex, para. 10.

<sup>2</sup> See [https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/cc/pre.prtrpcc.c.2020.1\\_ukraine](https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/cc/pre.prtrpcc.c.2020.1_ukraine).

<sup>3</sup> See <https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/protocol-bodies/cc/advice-or-assistance-Ukraine>.

<sup>4</sup> ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2022/2, para. 6.

<sup>5</sup> ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/10, para. 15.

<sup>6</sup> ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2022/2, para. 7.

<sup>7</sup> ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/2, annex, paras. 14 (b) and 40 (a) and (e).

9. Furthermore, the Committee expressed its regret that Malta had not submitted its response prior to the Committee's meeting and urged Malta to do so without further delay.

10. Lastly, the Committee agreed that letters outlining the above should be sent by the Committee's Chair on behalf of the Committee to the Parties' respective national focal points and made available on the Committee's website.<sup>8</sup>

## **V. Adoption of the outcomes of the meeting**

11. 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 closed the meeting.

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<sup>8</sup> All relevant correspondence has been made available on the Committee's website, see <https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/cc/advice-or-assistance>.