

Juan Luis Martin Ortega
Chair 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

Madrid, 19 January 2024

Dear Ms. Ylä-Mononen,
Dear Mr. Lahtela,

The Compliance Committee, at its thirteenth meeting (Geneva, 7-8 March 2023), considered the letter of 27 January 2023 submitted by Finland to the Committee containing the update on activities carried out by Finland in 2022 regarding its national pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR). The letter along with other relevant correspondence is available on the Committee's webpage: <https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/protocol-bodies/cc/advice-or-assistance-Finland>.

The Committee noted that further clarification by Finland will be needed regarding public participation in the development of the national pollutant release and transfer register (Art. 13 of the Protocol on PRTRs) and promotion of public awareness of pollutant release and transfer registers (Art. 15 of the Protocol on PRTRs).

The Committee thus agreed to invite Finland to elaborate more on the following: (a) whether the above requirements of the Protocol on PRTRs are addressed through the national law or other normative documents; (b) are there any planned activities aimed at providing opportunities for effective public participation, such as collecting comments and views of the public regarding development of the national PRTR; (c) are there any planned activities aimed at promoting public awareness of PRTRs, such as workshops, leaflets, surveys; and (d) are there any relevant settings that may be used for engaging the public in the development of the national PRTR, such as a working group, council or other body comprised of representatives of NGOs, academic institutions, private sector and/or other stakeholders.

In this regard, the Committee suggested to address the above issues by taking into account relevant guidance material, such as the 2021 Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/2021/10; pages 29-30, paras. 135-144 and pages 32-36, paras. 153-182; available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ECE_MP.PRTR_2021_10_E.pdf; Recommendations on the more effective use of electronic information tools (ECE/MP.PP/2021/2/Add.2; page 9 paras. 36-44, available at <https://unece.org/info/Environment-Policy/pub/2269>), and the Guidance for reporting on implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/6/Add.3; pages 16-18, paras. 105-115 and pages 18-19, paras. 122-124, available at https://unece.org/DAM/env/pp/prtr/MOPP3/English/ECE_MP.PRTR_2017_6_Add.3_E.pdf).

Ms. Leena Ylä-Mononen, General Manager
Mr. Juha Lahtela, Ministerial Advisor
Ministry of the Environment
Finland

Furthermore, the Committee noted that the description provided on the list of the actions undertaken during 2022 did not include the following measures being added to the FINPRTR: a function that would allow users to make graphs from PRTR data; and links to reference documents on best available techniques (BREFs).

The Committee therefore would appreciate it if you could provide information on the above-mentioned issues in the next annual update by Finland due for 1 February 2024. Should you require additional time to provide this information, kindly inform the secretariat through sending the respective correspondence to: prtr.survey@un.org.

Finally, let me conclude by conveying the Committee's appreciation to Finland for its constructive cooperation on the matter and assuring you that the Committee is looking forward to the fruitful collaboration in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Juan Luis Martin Ortega

