



29.2.2024

To 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, mr. Juan Luis Martin Ortega

Your letter on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## **Response to the Compliance Committee of the Protocol on Pollution Release and Transfer Registers**

Dear Sir,

Regarding your letter on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024 please find below responses to your questions on the implementation of the Protocol on Pollution Release and Transfer Registers in Finland.

Protocol on the PRTRs has been implemented in Finnish legislation in the series of international treaties (Statute Book of Finland no. 838/2009) and it has been incorporated into national legislation by presidential decree no. 58/2009 in Treaty Series of the Statute Book of Finland.

Over the past few years, focus on the developing the Finnish PRTR has been on producing a new technical solution in both national languages in Finnish and Swedish and also in English. The information required by the Protocol is publicly available in this service called FINPRTR (prtr.fi website). In FINPRTR it is possible to give feedback on the service itself and its data content to the competent authorities' email addresses available in the service. Some needs for further development in the service have already been identified and some technical improvements to the service are still needed. Perhaps the most important development area is synchronisation of data from different reporting obligations or at least utilisation of data so that the information produced by other reporting obligations could be included in the service. For example, there would be a lot of information on the reporting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNECE's Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and EU National Emission reduction Commitments Directive (NECD) that could interest the public as a whole. However, more extensive information on the state of the environment and the factors affecting it, is already available in the environmental administration's web service ymparisto.fi. Applications for environmental and water permits as well as permit decisions by Regional Governmental Authorities are available in the permit information service at ylupa.avi.fi.

In 2024 there will be a pause in the technical development of the FINPRTR and the focus in developing PRTR will be on making the FINPRTR service more known and, for future development measures, feedback will be collected from the public, organisations and authorities. Feedback and development proposals will be asked on the service itself, its



information content and usability. Electronic systems and questionnaires will be used to collect feedback. Press releases and social media communications will be used to raise awareness. At this stage, the focus on the awareness raising is on the use of electronic communication channels and printed products may not be produced. Public workstations can be used in giving feedback.

Communication and feedback collection will begin in spring 2024 at the same time as the compilation of the report on the national implementation of the PRTR Protocol. A summary of the feedback received and a work plan based on it will be drawn up and will be published and consulted in the autumn. More detailed planning of the necessary implementation measures will begin after the consultation and the necessary proposals will be drawn up on the basis of the revised plan.

Regard to the PRTR Protocol the Ministry of the Environment will continue its development efforts, follow the work of OECD and UNITAR and, where possible, make use of the most important new methods. The Ministry of the Environment is happy to provide more detailed information as the planned work progresses.

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Deputy Manager General

Juha Lahtela

Ministerial Adviser