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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

Fourteenth meeting

Geneva, 18 and 19 April 2024

Report of the Compliance Committee on its fourteenth meeting

Introduction

1. The fourteenth 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 18 and 19 April 2024. All Committee members were present at the meeting: Mr. Stéphane Bernaudon (France), Ms. Iordanca-Rodica Iordanov (Republic of Moldova), 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).

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.1/2024/1).

II. Submissions, referrals, communications and advice

Report by the secretariat on the status of submissions, referrals, communications and advisory support

3. The Committee took note of the report by the secretariat that there had been no submissions, referrals or communications since the Committee's previous meeting (Geneva (hybrid), 7–8 March 2023).

Committee deliberations on the advisory support PRTRPCC/A/2022/1 (Ukraine) and on communication PRTRPCC/C/2020/1 (Ukraine)

4. The Committee recalled that the final considerations and advice (PRTRPCC/A/2022/1),¹ prepared by the Committee, had been sent to Ukraine.

5. The Committee considered draft findings for communication PRTRPCC/C/2020/1 (Ukraine)² prepared by the curator and agreed to finalize the draft through its electronic decision-making procedure after the meeting and to send the finalized text to the Party concerned and the communicant for possible comments and make them available on the Committee's web page.

Committee deliberations on the advisory support to Estonia (PRTRPCC/A/2022/2), Finland (PRTRPCC/A/2020/0), Malta (PRTRPCC/A/2022/3), Portugal (PRTRPCC/A/2022/4) and Slovenia (PRTRPCC/A/2022/5)³

6. The Committee recalled that it had held a virtual meeting on 1 March 2024 to discuss and finalize the draft considerations and advice to Malta. The Committee also recalled that the final considerations and advice, prepared by the Committee, had been sent to Estonia, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia, with a deadline for submission of the respective comprehensive reports on implementing measures in the Parties concerned by 31 January 2025. As per established practice, all relevant correspondence was made available on the Committee's web page.

7. The Committee, noting the update provided by Finland, expressed its appreciation to Finland for its continuing constructive cooperation on the matter and agreed to seek further clarification regarding question (a) in the Committee's latest letter to the Party concerned, namely whether the requirements under articles 13 and 15 of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers were addressed through the national law or other normative documents. The Committee agreed that a letter requesting the above-mentioned clarification should be sent by the Committee's Chair, on behalf of the Committee, to the Party's national focal point and made available on the Committee's website.

III. Preparations for the fourth reporting cycle concerning the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

8. The Committee considered planning for the fourth reporting cycle and agreed on the distribution of tasks between Compliance Committee members for the preparation of the 2025 synthesis report.

IV. Other business

9. The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat that Armenia and Georgia had requested the secretariat to provide support for capacity-building to assist them in their efforts to accede to the Protocol.

V. Adoption of the outcomes of the meeting

10. 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.

¹ Available at <https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/protocol-bodies/cc/advice-or-assistance-Ukraine>.

² Available at https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/cc/pre.prtrpcc.c.2020.1_ukraine.

³ Available at <https://unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs/cc/advice-or-assistance>.