



**The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
and the Government of Belarus**

**Cordially invite you to a Side event of the Central and Eastern Europe
Regional Meeting on SAICM**

PRTRs in Action:

**Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers as a tool for SAICM
and Multilateral Environmental Agreements implementation**

**Tuesday 5 December 2006, 1.00 to 2.00 pm,
Conference Hall "Kampenhauzen", Hotel Konventa seta, Riga**

Side event Chairperson:

Mr. Craig Boljkovac, Deputy Programme Coordinator, Programmes in Chemicals, Waste
and Environmental Governance, UNITAR

Panellists:

Mr. Michael Stanley-Jones, Environmental Information Management Officer,
UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat

Ms. Irina Zastenskaya, Deputy Director, Republican Scientific
Practical Center of Hygiene, Belarus

Ms. Katerina Sebkova, Head of the Subdivision for Prevention of Risks,
Department of Environmental Risks, Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic

PRTRs in Action:

Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers as a tool for SAICM and Multilateral Environmental Agreements implementation

One of the major outcomes of the Kiev Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference was the adoption and signing of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) under the Aarhus Convention. The objective of the Protocol is to guarantee access to information on releases and transfers of certain polluting substances through registers that can be searched via the Internet. Such registers facilitate public participation in decision-making, strengthen governance of chemical management systems, and contribute to the prevention and reduction of environmental pollution.

But what exactly are PRTRs and how can they help with implementation of SAICM and Multilateral Environmental Agreements?

WHAT are PRTRs and how do they work in practice? What experience is already available in the Western and Eastern parts of UNECE region?

WHY should States implementing SAICM establish such registers? - What are the benefits of PRTRs for the various stakeholders, including governments, the public, environmental NGOs and the private sector?

HOW are PRTRs developed and what are the next steps to take at the national, regional and international levels to implement and further develop this tool and take advantage of its many opportunities?

The Side event will aim to provide answers to these questions and demonstrate some of the opportunities PRTRs offer for countries implementing SAICM and Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

After presentations by the panellists, there will be time for questions and discussion.

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