

UNEDITED ADVANCE COPY

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Third meeting
Riga, 11–13 June 2008

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

Opening ceremony

1. The high-level segment of the meeting will be opened and chaired by the Latvian Minister for the Environment. There will then be a welcome address by the Speaker of the Latvian Parliament, an opening address by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and a message delivered on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Panel discussions

2. The high-level segment will include three panel discussions during which ministers, distinguished speakers from international organizations and leading representatives of civil society will exchange views in a lively debate on topics of key relevance to the Convention and Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs).

3. Each panel discussion will be chaired by a moderator who will introduce the panelists and moderate the discussion. Each panellist will be invited to make a short opening statement, after which the debate will be opened to the floor. During the debate, panellists will have the opportunity to react to statements of their fellow panellists and to respond to questions or comments from the floor.

Agenda item 10: Celebrating the first 10 years: achievements, lessons learned and future challenges

4. Panellists will share their views of the contribution that the Convention has made in its first 10 years within their area of expertise, both the successes and any particular challenges. They may also share more general perspectives on the significance of the Convention in its broader political context and their thoughts on future challenges. Invited panelists will come from a diverse range of experience and perspectives, including ministers and senior

representatives of regional organizations, the judiciary, the Convention's Compliance Committee and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

5. The panel discussion will be followed by a general debate in which the draft long-term strategic plan is expected to serve as a key point of reference. Other reference documents for the general debate will include the two sets of national implementation reports (2005 and 2008) and the respective synthesis reports, and the capacity-building report.

Agenda item 11: Global and regional initiatives to promote principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

6. A panel of invited experts will present their perspectives on how the experience in developing and implementing the Convention in the region can be used to promote progress in implementing principle 10 of the Rio Declaration in other regions and at the global level. The panel will include senior representatives of international organizations and the NGO community, working both inside and outside the UNECE region. A message on rights to information and participation in the context of human rights and the environment will also be delivered on behalf of the UN Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights. The panel presentations will be followed by a general debate.

Agenda item 12: Special session on the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

7. In the special session on the Protocol on PRTRs, a panel of senior representatives from governments, regional organizations, industry and the NGO community will share their views on the challenges to the implementation of the Protocol, including in particular those faced by countries with economies in transition, as well as the future steps needed to bring about the early entry into force of the Protocol. The panel debate will be followed by a general debate on the draft statement on the Protocol on PRTRs prepared by the Working Group of the Parties. Reference documents will include the reports and other documents of the Working Group on PRTRs and the draft statement. Ministers and Heads of delegation of Parties, Signatories and other States, as well as international, regional organizations and NGOs and other representatives of civil society will be invited to consider, revise as necessary and adopt the statement.

Annex

ANNOTATED PROGRAMME FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

Friday, 13 June 2008

9.30 - 9.50 Opening ceremony

Chair: Mr. Raimonds Vejonis, Minister for the Environment,
Latvia

Welcome address: Mr. Gundars Daudze, Speaker of the Latvian Parliament
(Saeima)

Opening address: Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary, United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe

Message delivered on behalf of Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United
Nations Environment Programme

**9.50 – 11.20 Agenda item 10:
Celebrating the first 10 years: achievements, lessons learned and future
challenges**

Moderator: Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, Chair, UNECE Committee on
Environmental Policy

Panellists:

- Mr. Huseyngulu Baghirov, Minister for the Environment,
Azerbaijan
- Ms. Mona Aarhus, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to
the Aarhus Convention, Norway
- Mr. Artūras Paulauskas, Minister for the Environment,
Lithuania
- Prof. Veit Koester, Chair of the Aarhus Convention
Compliance Committee
- Ms. Françoise Nesi, Secretary-General, European Union
Forum of Judges for the Environment

- Mr. Bernard Snoy, Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- Ms. Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
- Ms. Elizabeth Smith, Senior Environmental Adviser, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- Mr. John Hontelez, Secretary-General, European Environmental Bureau and European ECO-Forum representative on the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties

11.20 - 11.40 Coffee Break

**11.40 - 13.00 Agenda item 11:
Global and regional initiatives to promote principle 10 of the Rio Declaration
on Environment and Development**

Moderator: Ms. Rita Annus, Deputy Minister for the Environment,
Estonia

Message delivered on behalf of Prof. Okechukwu Ibeanu,
United Nations Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights
Council on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and
dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the
enjoyment of human rights

Panellists:

- Mr. Christophe Bouvier, Director of the Regional Office for Europe, United Nations Environment Programme
- Mr. Werner Kiene, Chair, World Bank Inspection Panel
- Mr. Lalanath de Silva, Director, The Access Initiative, World Resources Institute
- Mr. Craig Boljkovac, Manager, Chemicals and Waste Management Programme, on behalf of the Environmental Governance Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research

13.00 - 15.00 Lunch

**15.00 - 16.00 Agenda item 12:
Special session on the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers**

Moderator: Mr. Jan Dusik, Deputy Minister for the Environment, Czech Republic

Panellists:

- Mr. Georgiy Filipchuk, Minister of Environmental Protection, Ukraine
- Mr. Simon Papyan, Deputy Minister for the Environment, Armenia
- Mr. Jeff Huntington, Head of Programme, Environmental Assessment, European Environment Agency
- Mr. Michel Amand, Chair of the Working Group on PRTRs and Interim Chair of the OECD Task Force on PRTR, Belgium
- Ms. Elena Vasilyeva, Volgograd EcoPress Information Centre, European ECO Forum

16.00 – 16.20 Agenda item 12: Review and adoption of decisions

16.20 – 16.40 Coffee break

16.40 – 18.00 Agenda items 14 to 19

18.00 Close of meeting