Economic Commission for Europe

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

Third session
Budva, Montenegro, 15 September 2017
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Opening of the general segment and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the third session

To be held at the Splendid Conference and SPA Resort, Budva, Montenegro, on Friday, 15 September 2017, starting at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the general segment and adoption of the agenda.
3. Promotion and capacity-building:
   (a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies;
   (b) Technical resources and subregional and national activities.

* The third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers will be held back to back with the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (11–13 September 2017). A joint high-level segment under the auspices of the two Meetings of the Parties will take place on 14 September 2017. A provisional agenda for the high-level segment will be provided as a separate document. More information will be made available in due course on the web page dedicated to the two sessions (http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhusmop6&prtrmopp3/main.html#/).
4. Reporting and compliance mechanisms:
   (a) Reporting mechanism;
   (b) Compliance mechanism.

5. Programme of work and operation of the Protocol:
   (a) Implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017;
   (b) Progress in implementing the strategic plan for 2015–2020;
   (c) Future work programme;
   (d) Financial arrangements.

6. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau.

7. Date and venue of the fourth ordinary session.

8. Any other business.

9. Review and adoption of decisions.

10. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. Opening of the general segment and adoption of the agenda

**Timing:** 10–10:10 a.m.

The Chair of the 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 (Aarhus Convention) will open the session. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to adopt the agenda for its third session as set out in the present document.

**Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the third session (ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/5)

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol

**Timing:** 10:10–10:20 a.m.

The secretariat will inform participants about the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on recent or anticipated developments in that regard. The current status of ratification of the Protocol on PRTRs is available online.¹

3. Promotion and capacity-building

(a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies

Timing: 10:20–11:20 a.m.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider potential areas for cooperation with partner organizations, including with other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements. In that connection, it will be informed of the relevant activities carried out, in particular, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Working Group on PRTRs, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and also by other organizations. It will also be invited to consider the report on the global round table on PRTRs (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/7).

Documentation

Report on the second Global Round Table on Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/7)


(b) Technical resources and subregional and national activities

Timing: 11:20–11:50 a.m.

Representatives of Parties, signatories and other interested States, in particular those from countries with economies in transition, and other relevant stakeholders will be invited to share their views on outstanding needs and priorities for capacity-building related to pollutant release and transfer registers.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the ongoing and planned capacity-building activities and to provide guidance on the future direction of such activities. It will also be invited to take note of the document on technical assistance and resources (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/12).

The Meeting of the Parties will be informed about recent developments with regard to the promotion of electronic tools.

Documentation

Report on the second subregional workshop “Get Your Right to a Healthy Community” (ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/7)

Technical assistance and resources (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/12)


4. Reporting and compliance mechanisms

(a) Reporting mechanism

Timing: 11:50 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

The Chair of the Compliance Committee will present a synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Protocol. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and
review the implementation of the Protocol on the basis of the national implementation reports submitted by Parties and the synthesis report.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on reporting requirements.

**Documentation**

Synthesis report on the implementation of the Protocol and overview of progress in implementing the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/10)

Draft decision III/1 on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/12)

**(b) Compliance mechanism**

**Timing: 12:30–1 p.m.**

The Chair of the Compliance Committee will report on the Committee’s activities since the first session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 20–22 April 2010).

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the Chair’s report and to consider and endorse the following draft documents prepared by the Compliance Committee, which were approved by the Working Group of the Parties at its fifth meeting (Geneva, 23–24 November 2016):

(a) Guidance for reporting on implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers;

(b) Systemic issues concerning the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and recommendations on how to address them.

The Meeting of the Parties is also expected to elect the Compliance Committee members, taking note of the status of membership as set out in the note by the secretariat on the subject.

**Documentation**

Systemic issues concerning the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and recommendations on how to address them (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/5)

Guidance for reporting on implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/6)

Report of the Compliance Committee on its third meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2014/4)

Report of the Compliance Committee on its fourth meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2015/2)

Report of the Compliance Committee on its fifth meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2017/2, forthcoming)

Membership of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2016/10)
5. **Programme of work and operation of the Protocol**

(a) **Implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017**

*Timing: 3–3:15 p.m.*

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the implementation of the Protocol’s current work programme (ECE/M P.PRTR/2014/4/Add.1, decision II/3, annex) on the basis of reports prepared by the secretariat.

**Documentation**

- Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Protocol’s work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/M P.PRTR/2017/9)

(b) **Progress in implementing the strategic plan for 2015–2020**

*Timing: 3:15–3:45 p.m.*

Parties will be invited to review progress in implementing the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/M P.PRTR/2014/4/Add.1, decision II/2, annex) on the basis of a report prepared by the Compliance Committee.

**Documentation**

- Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Protocol and overview of progress in implementing the strategic plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/M P.PRTR/2017/10)

(c) **Future work programme**

*Timing: 3:45–4:05 p.m.*

Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt the draft decision on the work programme for 2018–2021.

**Documentation**


(d) **Financial arrangements**

*Timing: 4:05–4:25 p.m.*

Delegations will be invited to make pledges to support implementation of the work programme. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on financial arrangements.

**Documentation**

- Draft decision III/3 on financial arrangements under the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/M P.PRTR/2017/11)
6. **Election of officers and other members of the Bureau**

*Timing: 4:25–4:40 p.m.*

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to elect a chair and two vice-chairs from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting in accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure (see ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/1, annex). It is also expected that the Meeting of the Parties will elect the remaining members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Parties, in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure. In addition, pursuant to the paragraph 3 of decision I/1, non-governmental organizations are expected to appoint representatives to attend the meetings of the Bureau, as observers.

7. **Date and venue of the fourth ordinary session**

*Timing: 4:40–4:45 p.m.*

The Meeting of the Parties is expected to consider the options with respect to the date and venue of its fourth ordinary session, bearing in mind the requirement under article 17 of the Protocol that ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties are to be held sequentially with or parallel to ordinary sessions of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, unless otherwise decided by the Parties to the Protocol.

8. **Any other business**

*Timing: 4:45–4:50 p.m.*

Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. **Review and adoption of decisions**

*Timing: 5:15–5:45 p.m.*

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review and formally adopt the draft decisions referred to under the preceding agenda items.

10. **Closure of the meeting**

*Timing: 5:45–6 p.m.*

Following the adoption of decisions by the Meeting of the Parties, the Chair will officially close the meeting.

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2 There will be a coffee break between 4:50 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. to finalize the list of decisions. To ensure equal opportunities for English-, French- and Russian-speaking delegations while saving paper, the draft text of the meeting decisions and outcomes will be projected on a screen around 45 minutes before the close of the meeting, and will be presented by the Chair verbally, thereby allowing for interpretation. The list of decisions will be distributed to participants by e-mail after the meeting.