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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

Working Group of the Parties

Third meeting

Geneva, 20 and 21 November 2013

Item 7 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda

**Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol:
substantive preparations: agenda of the second session**

Outline of the agenda for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureaux of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Summary

The outline contained herein was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureaux of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (the former was consulted on the organization of work set out in section II) in order to facilitate discussion by the Working Group of the Parties to Protocol on preparations for the Convention's fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties and the Protocol's second session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOPP-2), which will be held back to back.

According to its mandate, the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol is tasked, inter alia, with the preparation of the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/4, para. 2 (b)). The document was prepared on the basis of the decision of the Protocol's Working Group of the Parties at its second meeting (Geneva, 20–21 November 2012) (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2012/2, para. 36 (d))

(iii)),¹ and aims to facilitate the Working Group's discussion on the organization of work and agenda of MOPP-2.

The Protocol's Bureau considered the draft document at its fifth meeting (Madrid, 2-3 July 2013) and agreed to submit it to the third meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda for the second session and mandate the Bureau to finalize it for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.

The Convention's Working Group of the Parties, at its sixteenth meeting (Geneva, 19-21 June 2013) agreed with an outline of the agenda of the fifth session as presented in the current document and agreed to hold a high-level segment jointly with MOPP-2.

¹ Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28225>

I. Dates and Venue

1. At its first session, 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) decided that the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOPP-2) should be held back to back with the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP-5) (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2, para. 66).² In addition to this decision, in identifying suitable dates for the meetings, the secretariat took into account its experience in organizing previous sessions of the Convention's Meeting of the Parties (e.g., the timing for the European Union Environment Council, holidays in May and June, deadlines for the preparation of formal documents) and held consultations on the subject with the Chairs and the Bureaux of the two respective bodies.

2. As a result, the week of 29 June to 4 July 2014 is reserved for MOP-5 and MOPP-2 and the related preparatory meetings, to be held back to back. The Government of the Netherlands has offered to host the events. Maastricht has been proposed as a venue.

II. Organization of work

3. The proposed allocation of time for MOP-5 and MOPP-2 and the associated meetings is set out in the table below.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Convention/Protocol body</i>
Sunday, 29 June (9–11 a.m.)	Convention Bureau
Sunday, 29 June (full day)	Convention Compliance Committee (could continue in parallel with MOP-5, as required)
Sunday, 29 June (12–4 p.m.)	Convention Working Group of the Parties ^a
Monday, 30 June (10 a.m.–6 p.m.)	MOP-5
Tuesday, 1 July (10 a.m.–6 p.m.)	MOP-5, Protocol Bureau and Protocol Compliance Committee (could continue in parallel with MOP-5, as required)
Wednesday, 2 July (10 a.m.–6 p.m.)	Joint high-level segment under MOP-5 and MOPP-2 ^b
Thursday, 3 July (10 a.m.–6 p.m.)	MOPP-2
Friday, 4 July (10 a.m.–6 p.m.)	MOPP-2

^a The Convention Working Group of the Parties could also start in the morning of that day, if required. Late afternoon/evening is reserved for the finalization, translation and photocopying of possible revised documents, as well as for possible coordination meetings.

^b Subject to the decision of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol, a thematic high-level segment could be organized jointly by both Meetings of the Parties. If there is no high-level segment, MOPP-2 could start on Wednesday afternoon and conclude by 4 p.m. on Friday, 4 July.

² Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mopp1.html>

III. Elements of the agenda

4. For MOPP-2 it is suggested that: (a) the agenda should cover all substantive areas of work under the Protocol and new issues that are currently under discussion by the Working Group (e.g., the strategic plan, a proposal on promoting the Protocol in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia); and (b) discussions should address good practices, achievements, lessons learned, challenges and obstacles in relation to implementing the Protocol. Representatives of Governments and stakeholders could be invited to deliver the keynote addresses under specific agenda items. If Parties decide to hold a high-level segment, they may wish to consider organizing a thematic session on a subject which would: (a) attract high-level participation; and (b) be relevant/linked to emerging issues in a global context. A concise (no longer than two and a half pages), theme-specific joint declaration (i.e., with the Convention's Parties) could be developed for consideration by high-level officials at the segment.

5. In accordance with the foregoing considerations, a suggested MOPP-2 agenda is set out below.

Joint High-level Segment (subject to the decision of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol)

1. Opening.
2. Report on credentials with regard to the Protocol's Parties.
3. Thematic session (theme subject to the decision of the Convention and Protocol Parties).
4. Discussion and adoption of the Declaration (subject to the decision of the Convention and Protocol Parties).
5. Review and adoption of decisions of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
6. Closure of the joint High-level Segment.

General segment

1. Opening of the general segment and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.
3. Promotion and capacity-building;³
 - (a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies;
 - (b) Provision of technical assistance;
 - (c) Communication tools and material.
4. Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Protocol:
 - (a) Reporting mechanism;
 - (b) Compliance mechanism.

³ It is suggested to consider global and regional developments on issues related to pollutant release and transfer registers at the High-level Segment.

5. Programme of work and operation of the Protocol:
 - (a) Implementation of the work programme for 2011–2014;
 - (b) Strategic Plan for 2015–2020;
 - (c) Work programme for 2015–2017;
 - (d) Financial arrangements.
 6. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau.
 7. Date and venue of the third ordinary meeting.
 8. Any other business.
 9. Review and adoption of decisions.
 10. Closure of the meeting.
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