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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

Fifth meeting

Geneva, 23 and 24 November 2016

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the current work programme of the Protocol, including in relation to the strategic plan for 2015–2020 and financial matters.

Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Protocol's work programme for 2015–2017

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present report was prepared pursuant to the request 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 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/4/Add.1, decision II/4, para. 10).¹ It provides an overview of the contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the 2015–2017 work programme for the Protocol between 15 August 2015 and 15 August 2016.

This note sets out the state of the funds for both the Protocol and the Convention for 2015 and 2016, detailing the various contributions received, both financial and in kind, as well as a record of pledges, as of 15 August 2016. It further sets out the estimated expenditures for 2015 and for 2016.

¹ Available from http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2_docs.html#/.



I. General considerations

1. The present report provides an overview of contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the work programme for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers for 2015–2017, for the period from 15 August 2015 to 15 August 2016. During the reporting period the secretariat of 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 (Protocol on PRTRs) continued to observe a high degree of caution in its allocation of resources, mainly owing to the fact that many contributions were made during the second half of the financial year, thus creating uncertainty as to the availability of sufficient funds. The secretariat made various efforts to encourage in-kind contributions and thereby reduce the impact on the trust fund. The secretariat will continue pursuing synergies with other United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements, United Nations agencies and other partners in order to maintain a satisfactory number of activities and share implementation costs.

2. For the sustainability of work under the Protocol it is crucial to ensure staff funding on a long-term basis. The extension of contracts for staff funded from the trust fund depends on the availability and the level of contributions received. Since the current financial scheme is based on voluntary contributions and provides no guidance on their amount, the level of contributions fluctuates, making the funding of extrabudgetary posts unpredictable and far from secure. As for previous years, the secretariat was therefore obliged to give priority to securing funds for staff costs, which need to be reserved for at least one year before issuing a staff contract. The secretariat was able to allocate sufficient funds for staff and for activities in the first parts of 2015 and 2016 only due to savings accumulated at the end of the preceding year.

3. As of 1 February 2016, the funding of one administrative staff member through the 13 per cent programme support costs, levied from the trust funds of the ECE Environment Division, has been discontinued. This staff member support is required in order to provide the necessary administrative support to activities under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol, including administrative arrangements for the meetings of the governing and subsidiary bodies of the two treaties. In order to ensure implementation of the work programme without any interruption, the secretariat has initiated and completed the recruitment of an administrative staff member to be funded through extrabudgetary resources. It was agreed that, in a transition period, the costs and the staff's tasks will be shared between the secretariats of the Aarhus Convention and the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. As of 2017, one full-time administrative staff member will be required to support activities under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol.

II. Contributions

4. The “adjusted contribution” columns in tables A and B below are intended to offer a more realistic picture of the actual resources available for use in a given year. Contributions by Parties and signatories are often intended for use in a year other than the year the contribution was deposited and/or received. The adjusted contribution figure in a given year is derived from the actual contribution in that year, minus any part of that contribution that was intended for use in a different year, plus any contributions made in years other than the reference year but intended for use in the reference year. Due to the lack of timely funding for any specific year, the secretariat is obliged to use the available funds, as necessary. Amounts presented in all the tables are rounded to whole numbers.

A. Contributions received in 2015 and for 2015 for the Convention and the Protocol as of 15 August 2016

(in United States dollars)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2015</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2015</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	—	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2014
	—	3 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015, received in 2014
	2 971	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	2 971	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Armenia	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Austria	—	12 453	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2014
	5 015	5 015	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
	10 965	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
Belarus	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Belgium (Federal)	23 008	23 008	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Belgium (Brussels-Capital Region)	1 063	1 063	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Belgium (Flemish Region)	8 499	8 499	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Belgium (Walloon Region)	4 100	4 100	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Bosnia and Herzegovina	500	—	For Aarhus Convention 2014, received in 2015
	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Bulgaria	1 500	1 500	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Croatia	3 000	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	3 000	3 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Cyprus	500	—	For Aarhus Convention 2013, received in 2015
Cyprus	500	—	For Aarhus Convention 2014, received in 2015
Czech Republic	—	15 000	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2014
	—	10 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015, received in 2014
	15 000	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	10 000	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Denmark	60 975	20 325	For Aarhus Convention, received in 2015 for years 2015–2017 (full amount \$60,975); annualized for 2015
	30 489	10 163	For Protocol on PRTRs received in 2015 for years 2015–2017 (full amount \$30,489); annualized for 2015
Estonia	1 134	1 134	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	437	437	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
European Union	108 342	108 342	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	12 597	12 597	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Finland	5 531	5 531	For Aarhus Convention 2015
France	—	81 352	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2014
	71 272	71 272	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention 2015
	31 746	31 746	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention 2015
	32 967	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2014, received in 2015
	32 967	32 967	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2015</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2015</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Georgia	1 000	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Germany	90 000	90 000	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2015
	60 000	—	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
	16 447	16 447	Additional contribution for Protocol on PRTRs-related events in 2015
Hungary	4 977	4 977	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	481	481	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Iceland	1 480	1 480	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Ireland	—	6 353	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2014
	—	3 736	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015, received in 2014
	5 482	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	3 289	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Italy	55 310	55 310	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	46 382	46 382	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention 2015
	35 491	—	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention work programme 2015–2017 to promote the Convention to non-ECE countries, received in 2015
Kazakhstan	985	985	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Kyrgyzstan	—	500	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2016
Latvia	—	2 491	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2014
	2 116	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	1 058	1 058	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Lithuania	993	993	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Luxembourg	5 700	5 700	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Montenegro	—	500	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2014
	489	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2014, received in 2015
Netherlands	51 020	51 020	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	23 529	23 529	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Norway	20 000	20 000	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	20 000	20 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
	15 462	15 462	Additional contribution for the Aarhus Convention in 2015 to support study taking stock of approaches regarding the scope of judicial review in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
	—	43 963	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2015 to support participation of experts from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as non-governmental organizations, received in 2014
	36 614	—	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2016 to support participation of experts from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as non-governmental organizations, received in 2015
Poland	—	6 196	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2014
	—	3 717	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015, received in 2014

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2015</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2015</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	5 291	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
Portugal	489	—	For Aarhus Convention 2014, received in 2015
	489	489	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	489	489	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Republic of Moldova	1 058	1 058	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Romania	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
	500	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Serbia	1 300	1 300	For Aarhus Convention 2015
Slovakia	855	855	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	562	562	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
	832	—	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	547	—	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Slovenia	3 250	3 250	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	1 083	1 083	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
Spain	3 268	—	For Aarhus Convention 2014, received in 2015
	—	3 254	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2016
Sweden	4 140	—	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention 2014 to cover the costs of a study on access to justice, received in 2015
	8 980	—	Additional contribution for Protocol on PRTRs 2014, received in 2015
	35 000	35 000	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	18 000	18 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015
	15 000	15 000	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention 2015
Switzerland	41 451	41 451	For Aarhus Convention 2015
	72 165	72 165	For Protocol on PRTRs 2015, including 50,000 Swiss francs to support capacity-building for experts from countries with economies in transition
Ukraine	3 000	—	For Aarhus Convention 2013, received in 2015
	3 000	—	For Aarhus Convention 2014, received in 2015
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	—	46 512	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2015, received in 2014
Total	1 203 103	1 062 979	
of which explicitly for Protocol on PRTRs	299 563	239 947	

Notes: No financial contributions, in-kind contributions and/or pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Convention for 2015: Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Romania, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkmenistan. No financial contributions, in-kind contributions and/or pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Protocol for 2015: Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, Israel, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

B. Contributions received in 2016 and for 2016 for the Convention and the Protocol as of 15 August 2016

(in United States dollars)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2016</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2016</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	—	2 971	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	—	2 971	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Armenia	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Austria	—	10 965	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	5 036	5 036	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Belgium (Federal)	23 112	23 112	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Belgium (Brussels-Capital Region)	1 056	1 056	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Belgium (Flemish Region)	8 499	8 499	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Belgium (Walloon Region)	3 929	3 929	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Bulgaria	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Croatia	3 000	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2016
	3 000	3 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Czech Republic	—	15 000	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	—	10 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Denmark	—	20 325	For Aarhus Convention, received in 2015 for years 2015–2017 (full amount \$60,975); annualized for 2016
	—	10 163	For Protocol on PRTRs received in 2015 for years 2015–2017 (full amount \$30,489); annualized for 2016
Estonia	1 099	1 099	For Aarhus Convention 2016
	549	549	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
France	—	71 272	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
European Union	112 740	112 740	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Finland	5 574	5 574	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Georgia	1 000	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2016
	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Germany	—	60 000	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Hungary	4 977	4 977	For Aarhus Convention 2016
	481	481	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Iceland	1 480	1 480	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Ireland	—	5 482	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	—	3 289	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Italy	—	35 491	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention work programme 2015–2017 to promote the Convention to non-ECE countries, received in 2015
	53 781	53 781	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention work programme 2015–2017 to promote the Convention in non-ECE countries
	112 740	112 740	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Kyrgyzstan	500	—	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2016
	500	500	For Aarhus Convention 2016

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Actual contribution in 2016</i>	<i>Adjusted contribution for 2016</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Latvia	—	2 116	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
Lithuania	1 115	1 115	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Montenegro	477	477	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Netherlands	50 280	50 280	For Aarhus Convention 2016
	22 650	22 650	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Norway	20 000	20 000	For Aarhus Convention 2016
	20 000	20 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
	—	36 614	Additional contribution for Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2016 to support participation of experts from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia as well as non-governmental organizations, received in 2015
Poland	—	5 291	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	3 175	3 175	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Portugal	491	491	For Aarhus Convention 2016
	500	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Romania	—	500	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Slovakia	—	832	For Aarhus Convention 2016, received in 2015
	—	547	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, received in 2015
Spain	3 254	—	For Aarhus Convention 2015, received in 2016
Sweden	35 000	35 000	For Aarhus Convention 2016
	5 000	5 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Switzerland	40 609	40 609	For Aarhus Convention 2016, of which 20,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
	72 539	72 539	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016, of which 50,000 Swiss francs to support the building of capacity of experts from countries with economies in transition
Tajikistan	175	175	For Aarhus Convention 2016
Total	619 815	909 891	
of which exclusively for Protocol on PRTRs	133 930	161 400	

C. Contributions to projects under the Environment and Security Initiative²

(in United States dollars)

<i>Environment and Security Initiative projects</i>	<i>Total contributions received</i>
Strengthening the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and promoting its Protocol on PRTRs in Belarus	32 254

² To provide substantive advisory support to project activities (staff salary costs and staff travel for activity/work area on capacity-building of the Convention's work programmes for 2012–2014 and 2015–2017).

<i>Environment and Security Initiative projects</i>	<i>Total contributions received</i>
Strengthening access to justice in environmental matters in South-Eastern Europe	8 216

D. In-kind contributions

5. In addition to the in-kind contributions reported at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (see ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/6), the following in-kind contributions were also made in 2015 or 2016:

(a) Support for the establishment and advancement of PRTRs in South-Eastern Europe and in the Republic of Moldova from the Government of Germany;

(b) Support from the Government of the Spain for the organization and hosting of the second Global Round Table on PRTRs, the fourth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs and the ninth meeting of the Protocol's Bureau (Madrid, 24–27 November 2015);

(c) Promotion of the Protocol on PRTRs in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean by the Government of Spain;

(d) Support from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the travel of a number of participants from the Aarhus Centres and delegates from governments and non-governmental organizations to the meetings of the task forces and the Working Group of the Parties under the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs in 2015 and 2016.

E. Pledges (as of 15 August 2016)

(in original currency)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Austria	USD	5 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Belarus	USD	500	For Aarhus Convention 2016
European Union	EUR	12 597	For Protocol on PRTRs 2016
Germany	EUR	15 000	Additional contribution for Protocol on PRTRs to support participation of experts and non-governmental organizations from countries with economies in transition in 2016
	USD	60 000	For Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2017
Greece	USD	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2014
Israel	USD	5 000	For Protocol on PRTRs 2014
Malta	USD	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2013
	USD	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2012
	USD	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2011
Republic of Moldova	USD	1 000	For Aarhus Convention 2014
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	USD	200	For Protocol on PRTRs 2012
	USD	200	For Protocol on PRTRs 2013
Ukraine	USD	3 000	For Aarhus Convention 2015

^a Currency shown in International Organization for Standardization (ISO) three-letter alphabetic code.

III. Estimated expenditures³

A. Expenditures for 2015 for the Protocol

(in United States dollars)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Description</i>
1 P-3 staff: electronic information tools, Clearinghouse; PRTR.net, Protocol on PRTRs	157 416	95 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January-December 2015 ^a
Travel of experts and participants	44 000	Compliance Committee, Working Group, Global Round Table on PRTRs and Bureau meetings
Travel of staff	2 010	Travel of staff to service the second Global Round Table on PRTRs, the Working Group and Bureau
Subtotal	203 426	
13% programme support	26 445	
Total	229 871	

^a The remaining 5 per cent of P-3 staff costs relate to the management of electronic tools and are reported to the bodies of the Aarhus Convention.

B. Projected expenditures for 2016 for the Protocol

(in United States dollars)

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Core expenditures</i>	<i>Other expenditures</i>
A. Compliance mechanism	Travel of experts and participants	20 000	—
	Expert missions	5 000	—
	Subcontracts	5 000	—
B. Technical assistance	Travel of experts and participants, organizational costs (e.g., capacity-building workshop for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia)	—	45 000
C. Information exchange on a technical level	Subcontracts (maintenance and improvement of, e.g., PRTR.net)	10 000	—
D. Reporting mechanism		— ^a	—

³ The estimated costs shown here are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions made under the Convention's and Protocol's schemes of financial arrangements through the trust fund. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget. In addition to the staff included in the following table, the salary and other entitlements of one staff member in the General Service category is covered by the 13 per cent programme support costs levied from the trust funds of the ECE Environment Division. Figures are rounded up. They may change in accordance with United Nations administrative regulations. Expenditures reported are those that are related to the implementation of the 2015–2017 work programme of the Protocol on PRTRs. Expenses related to the implementation of the work programme of the Aarhus Convention are reported to the bodies of the Convention.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Core expenditures</i>	<i>Other expenditures</i>	
E.	Awareness-raising and promotion of the Protocol and its interlinkages with other treaties and processes	Travel of experts and secretariat	10 000	—
		Subcontracts		5 000
F.	Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities	Travel of experts, participants and secretariat (e.g., Working Group of the Parties, Bureau)	60 000	—
		Subcontracts	5 000	—
G.	Technical assessment of the provisions of the Protocol		— ^b	—
H.	Horizontal support areas	Staff training	500	—
Subtotal (activities)			115 500	50 000
Staff requirements	One P-3 staff member (Protocol on PRTRs; electronic information tools, Clearinghouse; PRTR.net)		161 500 ^c	—
	Secretarial support (G-4)		16 800 ^d	
Subtotal (staff requirements)			178 300	—
Programme support costs (13%)			38 194	6 500
Total			331 994	56 500

^a No expenditures are forecasted for this work area in 2016.

^b Expenditures related to preparation of the related documents are foreseen under work area A.

^c Total of 95 per cent of P-3 staff costs for January-December 2016. The remaining 5 per cent of P-3 staff costs relate to the management of electronic tools and are reported to the bodies of the Aarhus Convention.

^d This G-4 staff member is required to provide the necessary administrative support to activities under the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs. The staff costs for February-December 2016 are shared with the secretariat of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution as follows: 60% of costs are covered by the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs (70% and 30% respectively) and 40% of costs are covered by the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.