

16 November 2016

**PRTR Protocol**  
**5th meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (WGP 5)**  
**(Geneva, 23-24 November 2016)**

**EU and its Member States contribution**

**Agenda item 7): Preparations for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol**

**Agenda item 7a): Hosting and preparatory timeline**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Government of Montenegro for hosting the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs back to back with the Meeting of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention, as well as for all the preparations that they have done so far.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for their work on preparing the note on the preparatory timeline for the 3rd session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs and the 6th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention.

We also welcome the preparatory timeline for both events that are organised back to back, thus ensuring synergies and making an efficient use of resources.

**Agenda item 7 b): Substantive preparations**

**i) Agenda of the third session**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for preparing the draft outline of the agenda for the 3rd session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft outline of the agenda, which we support without additional suggestions. We already indicated that we welcome the preparatory timeline for both Meetings of the Parties.

**ii) Programme of work for 2018 - 2021**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and secretariat for their work in drafting decision on the work programme for 2018-2021.

We understand that due to the prolongation of the period covered by the work programme, careful estimation of costs requires taking into account the risks and uncertainties mentioned in the draft document.

We welcome the opportunity to consider this draft decision as well as the fact that our proposal for extension of the intersessional period to four years was taken into account.

We can support the draft decision on the work programme for 2018-2021.

Financial arrangements will be discussed under a different agenda item; and the total of contributions to the PRTR Protocol might affect the workability of the work programme. We therefore invite the Bureau and the Secretariat to identify those activities of the work programme which might be considered as priorities, and at the same time to consider these with respect to the remaining activities, as well as the links between both of them.

**iii) Financial arrangements under the Protocol**  
*(is addressed in a separate EU+MS contribution)*

**iv) Declaration**

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Bureaus of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and to the Aarhus Convention for the opportunity to consider a draft outline of a declaration prepared by them.

