

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 4: Promotion and capacity-building

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat and the Bureau for efforts in promoting and implementing the Protocol, providing technical assistance, as well as preparing related documents. We acknowledge the progress made in providing technical assistance through existing mechanisms and particularly the effort put into strengthening synergies with other instruments, bodies and organisations. We encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts in this respect.

Agenda item 4a): Synergies with partner organizations

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for information provided about the UNECE multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), as well as OECD, UNEP, UNITAR, PRTR Coordinating Group and other partner organizations of relevance to the Protocol's work programme for the information provided on their PRTR-related activities.

We believe that synergies with other organizations and MEAs are very important, since they enhance public access to information on global environmental issues and facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making; We believe that we should promote and create synergies where relevant and possible among UNECE, the MEAs and with other bodies.

Agenda item 4b): Subregional and national activities

The EU and its Member States welcome the outcomes of the subregional workshop on the Protocol for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, which was held in Minsk on 19–21 September 2016. We believe that the outcomes of the workshop will be valuable for the ongoing development of PRTRs. For future workshops, we suggest to focus even more on active participation of recipient countries.

We recommend all Parties, signatories and stakeholders to support such workshops through in-kind or financial contribution.

Agenda item 4 c): Electronic tools and technical resources

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for providing information on recent developments regarding electronic tools, including the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy and the PRTR.net global portal, as well as the cooperation among ECE, OECD and UNITAR in that regard.

We would like to emphasise the need and effective use of PRTR.net and PRTR-Learn.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for carrying out the outcomes of the survey of the communication strategy.

Agenda item 4 d): Global promotion of the Protocol

The EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat for providing with a report on the second joint Global Round Table on the PRTRs, organized under the auspices of OECD and ECE, in cooperation with UNITAR and UNEP in November 2015 in Madrid.

This clear report contains useful information and recommendations for all interested countries and stakeholders. Innovative uses of PRTRs, so as those discussed at the second Global Round Table on PRTRs under the heading "next-generation PRTRs" are particularly interesting developments.

We would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our thanks to the Spanish Government for hosting this event.

We believe that the second joint global round table was a great opportunity to share both successes and challenges in implementing the PRTR Protocol, as well as an opportunity to identify problematic areas and we encourage all Signatories and Parties to make use of the information exchanged, including for the implementation of the Protocol.

Finally, we would like to thank to ECE Secretariat for preparing the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air document about improving air quality for a better environment and human health, where the role of Protocol on PRTRs as a tool for public monitoring of emissions to air was stressed and where two actions relating to the Protocol were adopted:

- 1) to deliver data, as a minimum, for all large point pollution sources, and as far as possible also to provide information on agriculture and mobile pollution sources, according to the mechanism established by the Protocol, and
- 2) to report the information made available to the Executive Body for the Air Convention and, as appropriate, to the PRTR MOP.
