

Key issues that could be addressed through the work on development of the Protocol on PRTRs prior to the fourth session of the Protocol's Meeting of the Parties

preliminary summary by the Bureau

For adoption at the fourth session: Annexes only

- Activities (Annex I):
 - Revise title of the Annex as Activities and Sectors
 - Revise and harmonize the list of activities and sectors with other international agreements and processes by, as appropriate: (a) revising their capacity thresholds whilst avoiding possible disproportionality in reporting of facilities; (b) adding activities; and (c) aligning definitions of activities. Other agreements and processes may include OECD, UNEP Chemicals Conventions, UNFCCC, E-PRTR, LRTAP etc.
 - Address the specification of reporting requirements for diffuse sources by adding activities and sectors relevant for releases from diffuse sources (e.g. adding the transport and agricultural sectors and considering inclusion of releases from products) with a view to clarify reporting obligations for operators and owners (in transport e.g. operators and owners of airports, airlines, harbors, logistics companies, highways) vs. reporting obligations for competent authorities.
- Pollutants (Annex II):
 - Revise title of the Annex as Pollutants and Natural Resources
 - Address thresholds, whilst taking into account also the possible revision of capacity thresholds (remove or revise)
 - Add/revise pollutants considering pollutants addressed in other MEAs and in OECD list
 - Differentiate CO₂ (and other GHG) releases according to their origin from combustion of fossil or non-fossil types of fuel
 - Consider adding thresholds for on-site transfers
 - Address the issue of reporting on type of waste and amount of pollutant in waste (and other possible details about waste transfers as covered by other MEAs and programmes dealing with waste), as needed
 - Consider the issue of reporting on single pollutants vs. groups of pollutants
- Disposal and recovery operations (Annex III)
 - Revise title of the Annex as Disposal, storage and recovery
 - Add new and harmonize the list of disposal and recovery operations with lists under other international agreements, as needed
 - Address on-site transfers, as needed
 - Address storage, as needed

Pursuant to article 6(2d)¹, to start work in parallel and continue after the fourth session: Preamble and articles of the Protocol

- Consider amendments that will support making PRTR data more comprehensive and providing contextual information by improving integration of PRTR data with other information. This can include the following:
 - Inclusion of other relevant aspects under reporting requirements, such as information on waste thresholds, on-site transfers, storage (considering reporting also on obsolete storage places in this context), the specification of reporting requirements for diffuse sources, or the development of criteria for including pollutants under this Protocol. Relevant aspects may include reporting on: releases from diffuse sources including products, amount and type of fuels; type of waste and amount of pollutant in waste (and other possible details about waste transfers as covered by other MEAs and programmes dealing with waste); resource consumption (e.g. energy, water), production volumes and permit data (consider issues of confidentiality in making such data available and the means through which permits are currently made available); consider the issue of reporting on single pollutants vs. groups of pollutants (in Articles 6 and 7).

¹ The issues were addressed in the Strategic plan 2015-2020 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/4/Add.1) and the Maastricht and Budva Declarations (ECE/MP.PP/2014/27 Add.1-ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/2 Add.1 and ECE/MP.PP/2017/16 Add.1-ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/2 Add.1, respectively)

- Addressing issues of resource consumption and sustainability, and health matters (in Preamble)
- Add references to relevant issues covered by other processes (e.g. EH Process, EHS (Environment Health Safety) databases, OECD processes, eChem portal that gives information on e.g. toxicity of pollutants that became available only after the Protocol had been written), relevant MEAs, principles (polluters pays principle) and Agenda 2030 (in Preamble) and/or address relevant databases (in Article 3(5))
- Provide more detailed information on measurements/calculations used (in Article 9).
- Consider shortening the 15-month deadline to make data available in the register, taking into account such factors as data quality vs time of publication or federal vs. national government structures (in Article 8(2)).
- Address issues related to national enforcement of PRTR regulation (e.g. in a new Article 14bis).