

## **Proposals**

from the delegation of Poland  
to the technical group

set up by the Aarhus Convention Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

1. The list of pollutants subject to reporting should be based on some criteria spelled out in the protocol. The criteria may refer to various issues, including:
  - some potentially harmful features of the pollutants, like for example “carcinogenic” or “ozone depleting”,
  - the probability of risk associated with their uncontrolled release as compared with the volume of their production,
2. The list of pollutants should take into account other reporting obligations under other environmental international instruments,
3. Emission data and their thresholds on a facility level should ideally be accompanied by relevant activity data. The activity data and emission thresholds can be specified once there is a consensus on the substance list.
4. The list may well include pollutants which are characteristic for one environmental receiving medium only (for example: air or water only),

List of proposed substances to be included in national PRTRs

### **Greenhouse gases reported to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**

- Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)
- Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O)  
and fluorine containing halogenated substances that do not deplete stratospheric ozone and are not controlled by the Montreal Protocol:
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HCFs)
- Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)
- Sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)

### **Substances reported to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP)**

#### **Gases that contribute to acidification, eutrophication and formation of ground-level ozone.**

Emissions ceilings for the first four gases listed below, were set in the Annex II to the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.

- Sulphur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub> expressed as SO<sub>2</sub>)
- Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub> expressed as NO<sub>2</sub>)
- Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)
- Non-methane Volatile Organic Compounds (NMVOCs) and
- Carbon monoxide (CO)

## **Heavy Metals**

Substances listed in Annex I of the 1998 Aarhus Protocol on Heavy Metals (HMs) to the LRTAP Convention:

- Cadmium (Cd)
- Lead (Pb)
- Mercury (Hg)

Substances reported to UNECE/EMEP on a voluntary basis:

- Arsenic (As)
- Chromium (Cr)
- Copper (Cu)
- Nickel (Ni)
- Selenium (Se)
- Zinc (Zn)

## **Persistent Organic Pollutants**

Substances listed in Annexes II and III of the 1998 Aarhus Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to the LRTAP Convention:

- Dioxins and furans: polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDD) and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDF)
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs): BaP - benzo(a)pyrene, BbF - benzo(b)fluoranthene, BkF - benzo(k)fluoranthene and I\_P - indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene
- Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

## **Particulate Matter**

- Total suspended particulates (TSP)
- PM10
- PM2.5

## **Explanatory note:**

The above proposal cover substances to be included in national PRTRs for reporting releases to the atmosphere. This is a minimum list that includes most important substances, emissions of which countries are obliged to report under Framework Convention on Climate Change (excluding substances covered by the Montreal Protocol) and under Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution.

At a later stage Poland reserves the right to submit proposals for some other pollutants important from the point of view of reporting obligations concerning releases to water (rivers, lakes).

There are a few differences compared to the list of substances for EPER. For example, selenium is added in the heavy metal group as well as TSP and PM2.5 in the aerosol or particulate matter (PM) group. From among the persistent organic pollutants, only dioxins/furans, PAHs, HCB and PCBs are proposed at this stage as being the most relevant for Poland.