www.unece.org/index.php?id=32007

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) welcomes the accession of Israel 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 (Aarhus Convention), thus becoming the thirty-second Party to the Protocol as of 14 January 2013.

The Protocol is the first legally binding international instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers. Its objective is "to enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs)." PRTRs are inventories of pollution from industrial sites and other sources. By establishing publicly accessible national pollutant registers and requiring companies to produce annual reports on their releases and transfers of specified pollutants, the Protocol on PRTRs aims to exert a downward pressure on levels of pollution and thereby contribute to sustainable development and the promotion of green economy.

For further information, please visit http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html

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Note to editors

Aarhus Convention

The Aarhus Convention was adopted in Aarhus, Denmark, in June 1998 and signed by the European Community and 39 countries from all the subregions of UNECE. It entered into force in October 2001.

The Parties to the Convention are: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

The Protocol on PRTRs was adopted at an extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention on 21 May 2003. Thirty-six member States and the European Community signed the Protocol in Kyiv. The Protocol entered into force on 8 October 2009. The Parties to the Protocol

are: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, EU, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

All agreements enter into force for a State on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the State's instrument of ratification, at which point it becomes a Party.