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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

Meeting of the Parties to the  
Convention on Access to Information,  
Public Participation in Decision-making and  
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers  
(Second meeting, Geneva, 13 – 15 April 2005)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland  
Starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 April 2005<sup>1</sup>

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Relevant developments and activities since the adoption of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

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<sup>1</sup> New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to **complete the registration form which is available** from the web site of the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division (<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.htm>) and to transmit it to the Aarhus Convention secretariat, **at the latest two weeks prior to the meeting**, either by fax +41 22 917 01 07 or by e-mail to the following address [public.participation@unece.org](mailto:public.participation@unece.org). Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13 Avenue de la Paix ([see map at http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.htm)) to pick up their identification badge. In case of difficulty, please contact the Aarhus Convention secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 42 26.

4. National preparations for ratification and implementation of the Protocol.
5. Preparations for the entry into force of the Protocol and the first session of its Meeting of the Parties:
  - (a) Options for rules of procedure;
  - (b) Options for a compliance mechanism;
  - (c) Other issues related to preparations for entry into force.
6. Needs and prospects for capacity-building, technical support, guidance and information exchange.
7. Draft PRTR guidance document for the implementation of the Protocol.
8. Progress report to the Parties to the Aarhus Convention at their second meeting.
9. Any other business.
10. Adoption of the report and close of the meeting.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group is invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

### Item 2 Election of officers

The Working Group is expected to elect a Vice-Chairperson from a country with an economy in transition, as Mr. Muzafar Isobaev's term expires.

### Item 3 Relevant developments and activities since the adoption of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)

The secretariat will inform the Working Group of the status of ratification of the Protocol. Delegations will be invited to report on relevant international and regional activities, such as the twelfth meeting of the PRTR Coordinating Group of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) (Paris, 16 November 2004). The European Commission will be invited to inform the Working Group of the launch of the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER) on 23 February 2004. The Working Group may wish to discuss the coordination of its future meetings with those of the IOMC PRTR Coordinating Group.

### Item 4 National preparations for ratification and implementation of the Protocol

Signatories and other States will be invited to inform the Working Group of activities undertaken to prepare for ratification and implementation of the Protocol. Within this context, the European Commission will be invited to report on its proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the establishment of a European pollutant release and transfer register published on 7 October 2004, and on the European Community's plans for ratifying and implementing the Protocol.

At the first meeting of the Working Group, the secretariat was requested to compile information related to the status of ratification and implementation of the Protocol on the basis of any submissions made by the countries (MP.PP/AC.1/2004/2, para. 24). The Working Group will be invited to review the information compiled and to provide additional information, including information regarding countries' plans and intentions as to the manner of implementation addressed in the explanatory note to item 4 of the agenda of the first meeting (MP.PP/AC.1/2004/1).

Item 5 Preparations for the entry into force of the Protocol and the first session of its Meeting of the Parties

(a) Options for rules of procedure

The secretariat will present a paper on options for rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and its subsidiary bodies, prepared at the request of the Working Group at its first session (MP.PP/AC.1/2004/2, para. 44). The options include directly applying the Convention's rules of procedure and the institutions created under them (e.g. Bureau), to the Protocol; using the Convention's rules of procedure as a model for developing similar rules of procedure for the Protocol; or developing separate rules of procedure for the Protocol without any particular reference to those developed under the Convention. The Working Group will be invited to review and comment upon the options described in the paper and any other options proposed by delegations, with a view to developing a consensus on the best approach and a procedure for developing a draft text.

(b) Options for a compliance mechanism

The secretariat will present a paper on options for a compliance mechanism, including arrangements and procedures for promoting and assessing compliance and addressing non-compliance (art. 17, para. 2 (g), and art. 22). The options again include directly applying the Convention's compliance mechanism; using the Convention's compliance mechanism as a model only; or developing a separate compliance mechanism de novo. The Working Group will be invited to review and comment on these options, and may wish to decide on a preferred option and a procedure for developing a draft text.

(c) Other issues related to preparations for entry into force

At its first session, the Meeting of the Parties is mandated, inter alia, to establish a programme of work and guidelines on reporting by the Parties, and to consider establishing financial arrangements and technical assistance mechanisms and adopting measures to strengthen international cooperation (art. 17, para. 2 (b), (c), (d) and (h)). The Working Group may wish to initiate the development of a work plan in preparation for the Meeting of the Parties that includes one or more of these elements.

Item 6 Needs and prospects for capacity-building, technical support, guidance and information exchange

The secretariat will report on its efforts to coordinate the capacity-building activities of international, regional and non-governmental organizations relevant to the Convention and the Protocol. Delegations from countries requiring capacity-building or technical support in order to fulfil their expected obligations under the Protocol will be invited to describe their needs. Other delegations will be invited to present any ongoing or planned activities aimed at building capacity or providing technical support.

The secretariat will report on the UNECE project, undertaken with the support of the Economic Analysis Division, to update the cost-benefit analysis and modelling of PRTRs originally published in 2002 (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/4). The United Nations Institute for

Training and Research (UNITAR) will be invited to report on the experience gained since the launch of the 'virtual classroom' on PRTRs.

Item 7 Draft PRTR guidance document for the implementation of the Protocol

At its first meeting, the Working Group requested that the secretariat prepare a first draft of a guidance document which could be reviewed at its second meeting (MP.PP/AC.1/2004/2, para. 42). The secretariat will present the draft guidance document and the Working Group will be invited to review and comment on it. In particular, it may wish to comment on various issues related to the establishment and maintenance of PRTRs, such as

- The establishment of an appropriate institutional framework and institutional structures;
- The regulatory framework for data collection and dissemination;
- Enforcement measures;
- The regulatory framework for access to information, public participation and access to justice;
- Opportunities for convergence between different reporting methods for off-site transfers;
- The identification of facilities and multi-operator situations;
- Diffuse sources reporting;
- Data validation and management; and
- Data accessibility, dissemination and confidentiality,

and decide upon what steps should be taken to further develop and finalize the guidance document.

Item 8 Progress report to the Parties to the Aarhus Convention at their second meeting

The Chair of the Working Group on PRTRs will report to the Parties to the Aarhus Convention at their second meeting, to take place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 25-27 May 2005, on the Working Group's progress, including steps taken to prepare technical guidance, draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and a compliance mechanism for the Protocol. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the Working Group's achievements and to consider what further measures are required to promote the entry into force and effective implementation of the Protocol. The Working Group may wish to discuss the possible content of the progress report.

Item 9 Any other business

Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 10 Adoption of the report and close of the meeting

The secretariat will present the draft report of the meeting for review, comment and adoption by the Working Group.

**INDICATIVE TIMETABLE FOR THE SECOND MEETING**

<u>Session</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>
Day 1 morning	1, 2, 3, 4
Day 1 afternoon	5 (a)-(b)
Day 2 morning	5 (c), 6, 7
Day 2 afternoon	7
Day 3 morning	7
Day 3 afternoon	7, 8, 9, 10



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Date

*Title of the Conference*

*2nd meeting of the Aarhus Convention Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers  
(13-15 April 2005)*

*Delegation/Participant of Country, Organisation or Agency*

**Participant**

**Family Name**

**First Name**

Mr.




Mrs.

Ms.

**Date Of Birth (Day/Month/Year)**

*Participation Category*

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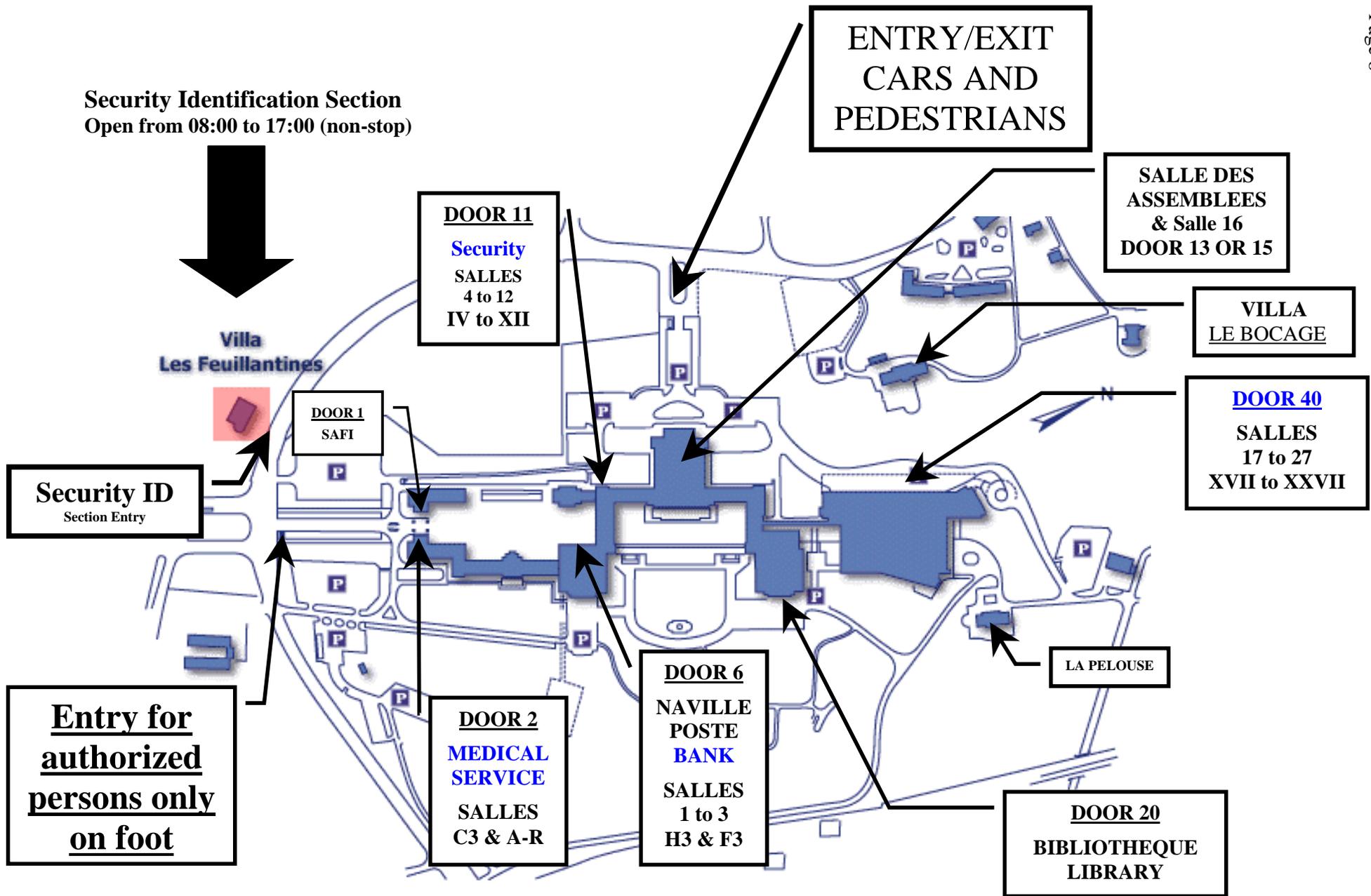
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