

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties 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

Bureau

Fourteenth meeting

Geneva, 9 November 2018

Report on the fourteenth meeting of the Bureau¹

I. Attendance

Bureau members: Ms. Tina Skårman (Sweden, Chair), Ms. Marie-Rose van den Hende (Belgium, Vice-Chair), Ms. Ulrike Schüler (Germany, Vice-Chair), Mr. Alex Radway (European Union), Mr. Nebojsa Redzic (Serbia), Mr. Roland Ritter (Switzerland) and Ms. Lesya Karnaukh (Ukraine).

Observer: Ms. Mara Silina (European ECO-Forum).

II. Opening and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair opened the meeting. The Bureau adopted the provisional agenda.

III. Development of the Protocol

2. Pursuant to the decision on the development of the Protocol taken by the Protocol's Working Group of the Parties at its sixth meeting (Geneva, 9 November 2018), the Bureau agreed that the Chair with the support of the secretariat will prepare: (a) a timeline and major procedural steps foreseen for the related work; and (b) the first draft report which will include:

(i) review of the reporting requirements under the Protocol as referred to in Article 6(2) of the Protocol, including possible revisions of Annexes I and II taking into account recent developments in relevant international processes;

(ii) identification of possible gaps and examples of imprecise wording or other provisions of the Protocol, for which Parties face implementation challenges.

3. To facilitate preparation of the draft report it was agreed that the Bureau members and the observer will send to the secretariat their suggestions regarding possible revisions of the main text of the Protocol and its annexes.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

IV. Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties

4. Participants exchanged their views regarding possible hosting of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties. Pursuant to the related outcomes of the sixth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, the secretariat reiterated its call to interested Parties to inform it concerning an interest to host the session by January 2019.

V. Promotion of the Protocol

5. The Bureau reaffirmed its support to the global promotion of the Protocol and reconfirmed that the three joint global round tables on PRTRs were successful. Participants also exchanged their views regarding the format of the latest third Global Round Table (Geneva, 7-8 November 2018), such as need to allocate more time for discussion in small groups, and considered possible ways to increase participation of representatives of industry and trade organisations in the future events.

6. The Bureau took note of the information provided by the secretariat about the next ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in Geneva on 21-22 March 2019 and possible opportunities for promotion of PRTRs at the event.

7. The Bureau reviewed the status of ratification of the Protocol and expressed its concern that several signatory countries to the Protocol had not yet ratified the treaty. In this regard, the Bureau requested the secretariat to send letters on the matter through established diplomatic channels to those signatory countries.
