

Guidance on Implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Summary in English*

This publication is the unofficial translation of the Guidance on Implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR Protocol) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) prepared in 2008. The UNECE PRTR Protocol was adopted in Kiev at an extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in May 2003, and entered into force in October 2009. See:

<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr.guidancedev.html>

This Guide was first of all designed to help Parties to the UNECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR Protocol) interpret and fulfill their obligations. It also aims to assist officials in countries considering accession to the Protocol to evaluate and prepare for these obligations, as well as to aid potential users in understanding and taking advantage of PRTR systems.

The guide addresses countries that can have very different economic situations. Parties and potential Parties will have very different starting points for developing their PRTR systems in terms of their administrative structures and the availability and quality of information on emissions, as well as the information requirements of different stakeholders. The PRTR Protocol aims at minimum requirements that can be achieved across different countries. At the same time, the Protocol views PRTRs as dynamic systems to be steadily improved, both on a national basis and in terms of international cooperation.

The guide deals with all aspects of implementing the PRTR Protocol, including the general issues such as objectives and core elements of the Protocol, institutional and legal implementation, including public participation, access to information and access to justice, the scope of the register, as well as with different operational issues such as data collection and management, data dissemination and public access. A glossary of terms and a table of definitions, further reading as well as information on analytical procedure are also provided.

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*The text of Macedonian translation is also provided in electronic form.