



# Economic and Social Council

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## 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

### Compliance Committee

#### Sixth meeting

Budva, Montenegro, 14 and 15 September 2017

## Report of the Compliance Committee on its sixth meeting

### Introduction

1. The sixth meeting of the Compliance Committee under 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 took place in Budva, Montenegro, on 14 and 15 September 2017. It was held back to back with the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, which was held on 15 September. Six of the nine Committee members were present at the meeting: Mr. Merab Barbakadze (Georgia); Mr. Nicolas Encausse (France); Mr. Akos Fehervary (Hungary); Mr. Fritz Kroiss (Austria); Mr. Alistair McGlone (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Chair); and Mr. Gor Movsisyan (Armenia) (Vice-Chair). Ms. Nataša Kacic-Bartulovic (Croatia), Ms. Barbara Rathmer (Germany) and Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov (Ukraine) did not attend.

## I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. The Chair opened the meeting.
3. The Committee adopted its agenda as set out in document ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2017/3. The Committee agreed to discuss its future work in the context of its consideration of the synthesis report on the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, including the overview of the progress in



implementing the strategic plan for 2015–2020 for the Protocol annexed to that report (ECE/MP.PRTR/2017/10).<sup>1</sup>

## **II. Submissions, referrals and communications**

4. The secretariat reported that there had been no submissions, referrals or communications since the Committee's fifth meeting (Geneva, 22–24 May 2017). The Committee took note of the information provided by the secretariat.

## **III. Future work**

5. The Committee discussed its possible future work in the context of the outcomes of the second reporting cycle. In that regard, it continued to deliberate on whether European Union member States that were Parties to the Protocol were required under the Protocol to introduce their own national pollutant release and transfer registers to supplement what was done at the European Union level. The Committee noted that it had a mandate under paragraph 14 (b) of the annex to decision I/2 of the Meeting of the Parties (see ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1) to examine compliance issues that were not explicitly referred to in paragraph 13. The Committee appointed Mr. Encausse as a rapporteur to further explore the issue and requested him to report to the Committee on the matter at its seventh meeting.

## **IV. Lessons learned from the second reporting cycle concerning the implementation of the Protocol**

6. The Chair opened a round-table discussion session on the lessons learned from the second reporting cycle concerning the implementation of the Protocol to which members of the public and delegates from Parties, signatories and other stakeholders had been invited. In that regard, attention was drawn to the synthesis report on the implementation of the Protocol and the overview of progress in implementing the strategic plan for 2015–2020, which served as background materials for the discussion.

7. The Committee welcomed the active engagement of participants in the round table and took note of a number of comments to the effect that civil society planned to engage more in the process of the further development of national registers. For example, participants noted that reports, e.g., on inspections, and other reporting that was related to the content of pollutant release and transfer registers needed to be systemically integrated into the registers in order to improve their usefulness.

8. The Committee also took note of the outcomes of the discussion on a possible evaluation of the success of the Protocol and the development of indicators (see ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2017/2, annex). The Meeting of the Parties would also consider that issue at its third session in the context of its discussion on the second reporting cycle.

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<sup>1</sup> The strategic plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2014/4/Add.1, decision II/2, annex) is available from [http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2\\_docs.html](http://www.unece.org/prtrmopp2_docs.html).

## **V. Adoption of the outcomes of the meeting**

9. The Committee adopted the major outcomes presented by the Chair at the meeting and requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, to finalize the report and incorporate the adopted outcomes and decisions. The Chair then closed the meeting.

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