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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

Working Group of the Parties**Second meeting**

Geneva, 20 and 21 November 2012

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Implementation of the current work programme of the Protocol**Report on implementation of the work programme of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

In its decision I/6, the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making Procedures and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters requested the secretariat to provide a detailed assessment of the activities in the work programme for the period 2011–2014, including a breakdown of the cost estimates of each activity, and to report to the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, para. 4).¹ It was also requested that the assessment include an examination of whether or not a separate technical assistance mechanism should be established. The present note by the secretariat was prepared in response to those requests.

¹ Available from
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/docs/ece_mp.prtr_2010_2_Add.1_e.pdf

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Introduction

1. Since the adoption of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) in 2003, 38 States have become Signatories to the Protocol and there are currently 29 Parties. The Protocol entered into force on 8 October 2009. Since the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 20–22 April 2010), four States have become Parties: Slovenia, on 23 April 2010; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on 2 November 2010; Serbia, on 23 November 2011; and Ireland on 20 June 2012.²

2. This document provides an overview of the implementation of the Protocol's work programme for 2011–2014 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/6, annex) as of 1 July 2012, focusing on operational and organizational aspects. The status of work in each of the work programmes' activity areas is described.³

3. The secretariat made serious efforts to avoid duplication of work and inefficient use of resources through pursuing synergies with activities under other partner organizations. In addition, the secretariat conducted specific thematic surveys prior to activities in order to respond better to the needs of Parties and stakeholders. Furthermore, the secretariat used and is planning to continue using more electronic tools (e.g., e-mail consultations, phone conferences, online databases, the clearinghouse mechanism and the PRTR.net global portal).

I. Work programme for 2011–2014: overview of implementation

A. Compliance mechanism

4. The objective of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on PRTRs is to monitor and facilitate compliance with the Protocol. The method of work of the Committee is to meet to review submissions, communications, etc., prepare decisions and reports and undertake fact-finding missions. For its part, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Protocol secretariat publicizes the mechanism, develops a database of cases and services the Committee.

5. The first meeting of the Compliance Committee took place in Geneva on 27 and 28 January 2011 (ECE/MP.PRTR/C.1/2011/2).⁴ The Committee elected Mr. Alistair McGlone as its Chair by consensus. The Committee discussed and adopted the document on its methods of work (*modus operandi*), as amended at the meeting, and agreed to revisit it, as appropriate, at its next meeting. The Committee also prepared a checklist for submissions, referrals and communications to the Compliance Committee.

² Information on the status of ratifications is available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.html>

³ This document also includes information regarding the Protocol's implementation in 2011 provided in the report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9), available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop4/mop4.doc.html>

⁴ Available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/meetings-and-events/public-participation/2011/first-meeting-of-the-prtrs-protocol-compliance-committee/docs.html>

6. The Committee has to date received no submissions by Parties concerning other Parties, submissions by Parties concerning their own compliance, formal referrals by the secretariat, or formal communications from the public.

B. Technical assistance

7. The objective of technical assistance activities is to assist countries in the effective implementation of the Protocol and to evaluate the need for a separate technical assistance mechanism. The method of work involves specific projects in countries needing assistance, including training workshops, guidance materials and technical assistance, which are mostly separately funded. There is a minimum of one subregional workshop per year, with a follow-up questionnaire sent and analysis of results.

Training on the pollutant release and transfer register cost model

8. The secretariat organized a training session on a cost model to support implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs on 28 November 2011 as a part of the first meeting of the Working Group of the Parties (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2011/3).⁵ The cost model presented is a tool for developing detailed estimates of the magnitude of costs of monitoring emissions (releases) of substances contained in annex II to the Protocol to different environmental media (air, water and land), in order to assist Parties to the Protocol with its implementation. The training described core aspects of that process, including the cost model assumptions and the estimation of cost per substance; aggregate cost per facility; aggregate cost per activity; and aggregate cost per country. An online version of the cost model questionnaire was also described. The Excel version of the cost model was made available to the Working Group on CD-ROM and on the ECE website.⁶

9. Files describing the cost model are also being translated into Russian to facilitate greater use of the model in Russian-speaking countries.

Side events

10. The secretariat organized and serviced the following side events, which facilitated exchange of experiences and lessons learned in relation to the Protocol:

(a) “Implementing pollutant release and transfer registers to promote sustainable development” side event at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, Chisinau, 30 June 2011;

(b) “Pollutant release and transfer registers: an efficient tool for sustainable water management” side event at the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, Astana (Astana Ministerial Conference), 22 September 2011.

Subregional workshop

11. The secretariat organized and serviced the “Get your right to a healthy community” subregional workshop on the Protocol for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, on 3 and 4 November 2011 in Minsk. The workshop aimed to promote ratification and future implementation of the Protocol in these countries.

⁵ Available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/meetings-and-events/public-participation/public-participation/2011/first-meeting-of-the-prtrs-protocol-working-group-of-the-parties/docs.html>

⁶ Available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/protocol-on-prtrs/areas-of-work/envpprtrcb/prtr-cost-model.html>

Country-specific projects

12. The secretariat, in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and Zoï Environment Network (a Swiss-based non-governmental organization (NGO)), is pursuing a project for Belarus, which includes components on building capacities for the implementation of the Aarhus Convention (organizing model public hearings, a three-day capacity-building workshop and a study tour) and the Protocol on PRTRs (establishing a pilot pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR)). Implementation of the project is scheduled for late in the 2012–2014 work programme period. The project was approved under the auspices of the Environment and Security Initiative and supported by the Government of Sweden.

Technical assistance via electronic tools

13. The secretariat has continued managing the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy⁷ and the PRTR.net global portal.⁸ The PRTR.net global portal is used to facilitate the collection, dissemination and exchange of information related to PRTRs. The Protocol secretariat has maintained and updated PRTR.net in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and continues pursuing close cooperation with UNITAR in order to ensure the effective use of PRTR.net and PRTR:Learn⁹ by national focal points and stakeholders. For example, PRTR.net was synergized with the PRTR:Learn website (an interactive portal developed and managed by UNITAR). PRTR.net and the Aarhus Clearinghouse were subject to an upgrading project during 2010–2011 conducted by GRID-Arendal. An agreement was reached with GRID-Arendal on hosting the Aarhus Clearinghouse and PRTR.net at no cost in 2012.

14. The secretariat further developed a database on capacity-building activities,¹⁰ which serves as an information source for past, future and ongoing PRTR capacity-building activities. The secretariat continues administration of the database, and upgraded a feature to PRTR.net to enable national focal points and stakeholders to log in and add data to the PRTR capacity-building activities database. The secretariat is collating data for a future upgrade of the Aarhus Clearinghouse.

15. In addition, the secretariat distributed to national focal points and stakeholders a joint message from ECE, OECD and UNITAR on electronic tools for PRTRs. The message described the tools managed by the Protocol secretariat, as well as the PRTR:Learn tool managed by UNITAR, the OECD Centre for PRTR Data,¹¹ the OECD Resource Centre for Release Estimation Techniques¹² and the E-PRTR software made available by the European Environment Agency for free download.¹³

16. The PRTR Protocol section of the ECE website was regularly updated in the intersessional period. In addition, section D below includes information regarding the online reporting tool.

⁷ <http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org/>

⁸ <http://www.prtr.net/>

⁹ <http://prtr.unitar.org/>

¹⁰ Available from <http://apps.unece.org/ehlm/pp/NIR/RLsearch.asp>

¹¹ http://www.oecd.org/env_prtr_data/

¹² Available from www.oecd.org/env/prtr/rc

¹³ Available from <https://svn.eionet.europa.eu/repositories/EPTRTR/trunk/>

Technical assistance via guidance materials

17. The Russian version of the *Guidance on Implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers* (ECE/MP.PP/7) was published and widely disseminated. A simplified guide on the Protocol, *Your Right to A Healthy Community* (ECE/MP.PP/8), was published and disseminated in English, French and Russian. Both publications are available on the ECE website.¹⁴

18. Translation of the full PRTR Guidance on Implementation into Spanish was completed in May 2012 and the publication will shortly be available on the ECE website.

Thematic surveys

19. The secretariat carried out the following three thematic surveys on PRTRs:

(a) Survey on *possible needs for a technical assistance mechanism*. This survey was distributed to Parties and Signatories to the Protocol and other ECE member States in order to gather information on the need for a technical assistance mechanism to support the implementation of the Protocol. The survey collected information on countries' current activities on PRTRs; identified barriers to the implementation of PRTRs; and determined which specific activities should be undertaken to support the implementation and improvement of PRTRs. The results of the survey will be considered for developing the future work programme for the Protocol;

(b) Survey on *current activities on PRTRs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia*. The survey collected information on current activities on PRTRs in the countries of the subregion; identified gaps relevant to the full implementation of PRTRs in these countries; and determined activities that should be undertaken to support the implementation and improvement of PRTRs in those countries. The results of the survey provided the basis for discussions at the Minsk workshop and will be used by the national focal points, the secretariat and the partner organizations for future capacity-building activities and bilateral cooperation;

(c) Survey on *pollutant monitoring, diffuse releases and bilateral cooperation*. This survey was distributed to Parties and Signatories to the Protocol and other ECE member States. The survey collects information on who pays for and who carries out the pollutant monitoring in each country; identifies information and methods in relation to measuring or estimating diffuse releases in each country; and identifies potential for bilateral cooperation between countries so as to help meet countries' needs for assistance and training. The results of the survey will be used by national focal points and the partner organizations for advisory support and bilateral cooperation.

The survey responses are available on the ECE website,¹⁵ and the secretariat has prepared a note on the survey results (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2012/5).

Technical assistance mechanism

20. The Working Group of the Parties agreed at its first meeting on the importance of technical assistance and took note of the report prepared on the basis of the outcomes of the survey on a technical assistance mechanism conducted by the secretariat (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2011/4). The Working Group discussed the matter and agreed that the establishment of a specific capacity-building fund or mechanism was not required. The

¹⁴ <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=2897>

¹⁵ Available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/protocol-on-prtrs/areas-of-work/envpprtrcb/surveys.html>

Working Group mandated the secretariat to prepare for its next meeting a note describing different modalities of possible technical assistance (see ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2012/4).

C. Information exchange on a technical level

21. The objective of information exchange on a technical level is to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Protocol. The method of work for information exchange is via meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol, ad hoc meetings and use of electronic tools.

22. In addition, sections B and E below describe a training, surveys, side events, subregional workshops and other activities, as well as electronic tools that enable information exchange on a technical level. Sections D and F below include information on the reporting mechanism and meetings of the Working Group of the Parties.

D. Reporting mechanism

23. The objective of the reporting mechanism is to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Protocol and to facilitate reporting, review of compliance and experience. The method of work is via meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol; exchange on a technical level of information on the application of electronic information tools; and use of the online national implementation reports database in the Aarhus Clearinghouse, the PRTR:Learn website, the PRTR capacity-building activities matrix and e-reporting.

24. The online reporting system for the Aarhus Convention was presented at the first meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (28–29 November 2011, Geneva), where the Working Group agreed that a similar tool should be developed for the reporting under the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2011/2, para. 24 (c)).¹⁶ The secretariat plans to initiate development of this tool in Fall 2012. In addition, section B above includes information on other electronic tools.

E. Awareness-raising and promotion of the Protocol and its interlinkages with other treaties and processes

25. The objective of awareness-raising and promotion of the Protocol and its interlinkages with other treaties and processes is to further the knowledge of the Protocol throughout the ECE region and beyond, increase the number of Parties to the Protocol; further the application of the Protocol in the context of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and related processes (e.g., the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management/International Conference on Chemicals Management under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)). The method of work for this activity is to participate in key regional and international events and processes; provide support to workshops organized by others; prepare leaflets, publications, news bulletins and other materials; update the website; and write and review articles on the Protocol.

¹⁶ Available from http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/docs/2011/ece_mp_prtr_wg.1_2011_2_eng.pdf

Events

26. The secretariat has carried out this activity through participation, or arranging for the participation, of representatives of the Convention and Protocol bodies in workshops and other events in various countries to promote and raise awareness of the Convention and its Protocol at the international level, including the following:

(a) It promoted the Convention and the Protocol, in the conference “Transparency in marine fisheries: The role of the European Union’s Common Fisheries Policy” in Brussels on 26 January 2011;

(b) It promoted the Convention and the Protocol at a briefing for countries of Central Asia (Geneva, 23 March 2011);

(c) It promoted the work under the Protocol at the meetings of the PRTR Task Force and the Task Force on Exposure Assessment under OECD (Paris, 3–5 October 2011);

(d) It assisted the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Bureaux of the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs in providing input to a joint message from the ECE MEAs and the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy suggesting amendments to the zero draft outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio+20 Conference), “The Future We Want”. The message aimed to promote the Convention and the Protocol at the Rio+20 Conference. It was distributed to national focal points and stakeholders in the region;

(e) During the Rio+20 Conference, the secretariat, in cooperation with numerous partners, organized, coordinated and provided input to the following side events at which the Convention and the Protocol were promoted:

(i) A full-day side event on Principle 10, “Choosing Our Future: Open and Participatory Sustainable Development Governance”, on 19 June 2012, in particular, the following two sessions:

a. The first session, organized in collaboration with *Corporación Participa* “Principle 10 Regional Conventions”, focused on next steps and the content for a possible regional convention on access rights in Latin America and the Caribbean, including lessons learned from the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs in the ECE region;

b. The second session, entitled “Public Participation in International Environmental Governance”, focused on lessons from applying the Almaty Guidelines on promoting the principles of the Aarhus Convention in international forums, the Aarhus Convention compliance mechanism and access mechanisms (including citizen-initiated complaint mechanisms) in other sustainable development-related forums and institutions;

(ii) A joint side event of the United Nations regional commissions, “Green Growth and Sustainable Development: Regional Perspectives”, on 21 June 2012. The ECE contribution to that event looked at Principle 10 and its implementation through ECE legal and policy instruments, in particular the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs, the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the UNECE¹⁷ Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development;

¹⁷ECE is the official acronym for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, whereas UNECE is used informally to avoid confusion with other regional bodies. The official name of the Strategy incorporates this informal acronym.

- (iii) A European Economic and Social Committee side event, “Civil society Taking Global Responsibility”, on 21 June 2012;
- (iv) A European Environment Agency side event, “Sharing environment information in action”, on 19 June 2012;
- (v) A UNEP-led side event, “Access for All”, on 21 June 2012.

27. Furthermore, to build synergies and enhance coordination with partners, the secretariat serviced the sixth meeting of the PRTR Coordinating Group (Paris, 6 October 2011)¹⁸ and continuously maintained close cooperation with OECD, UNEP, UNITAR, GRID-Arendal and the Global Environment Facility on PRTR-related issues. The seventh meeting of the PRTR Coordinating Group is scheduled for 12 September 2012. The seventh Aarhus Convention Capacity-Building Coordination meeting, which took place on 15 June 2012, reviewed the work undertaken in this area for the Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs by the secretariat and partner organizations, and considered coordination and possible strategic directions for future capacity-building activities.¹⁹

28. In addition, section B above lists capacity-building activities, including side events and a subregional workshop that have taken place to promote the Protocol.

Reports articles and outreach

29. The secretariat engaged in an enhanced outreach exercise, distributing materials and informational messages via e-mail about the PRTR Protocol to national focal points, national bar associations, judicial training centres, Aarhus Centres, national and European consumer authorities, national and European Ombudsmen and national financing and development aid agencies, NGOs and academic institutions in the ECE region. For example, a joint ECE, OECD and UNITAR message on electronic tools for PRTRs was distributed to national focal points and stakeholders on 25 April 2012.

30. The secretariat promoted the Protocol through various reports and articles prepared under the auspices of ECE and partner organizations (e.g., *Strengthening Water Management and Transboundary Water Cooperation in Central Asia* (ECE/MP.WAT/35), the ECE 2011 Annual Report; OSCE publications; and a fact sheet on participation of civil society and business in greening the economy prepared for the Astana Ministerial Conference).

31. The secretariat has submitted a technical article, “Pollutant release and transfer registers: a cross-cutting instrument to address climate change and eco-toxic releases”, to the International Conference on Environmental Pollution and Remediation (28–30 August 2012).

32. It also provided a contribution to a new edition of the ECE/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) sourcebook, *International Forest Sector Institutions and Policy Instruments for Europe* (forthcoming) on how the Convention and its Protocol encompass forest-related issues.

33. The secretariat contributed information on PRTR and Aarhus electronic tools to the ECE report to the World Summit on the Information Society Forum (Geneva, 17 May 2012).

¹⁸ See <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr/intlcfgimages/about.html>

¹⁹ More information about activities carried out by partner organizations can be found in the report on capacity-building (ECE/MP.PP/2011/8), available from <http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mop4/mop4.doc.html>

34. In addition, section B above describes guidance materials that involve awareness-raising and promotion of the Protocol, as well as electronic tools, which have been used to facilitate the collection, dissemination and exchange of information related to PRTRs and the Protocol.

Communications strategy

35. At its first meeting, the Protocol's Working Group of the Parties welcomed the Communication Strategy for the Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.2)²⁰ and committed to implement it. The aim of the communications strategy is to provide national focal points, environmental NGOs and other stakeholders with possible options for communication work. The work activities outlined in this section are in line with the communications strategy.

F. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities

36. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities under the Protocol are carried out via meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol, meetings of the Bureau, as necessary, and consultations among Bureau members using e-mail.

37. The secretariat serviced the first meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol and the first meeting of the Bureau (14 January 2011), and coordinated a number of e-mail consultations among the Bureau members.

G. Technical assessment of provisions of the Protocol

38. Technical assessment of provisions of the Protocol involves drafting of recommendations on technical issues to the Meeting of the Parties, based on the assessment report(s). The method of work for this activity is meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol, electronic consultation and drafting of assessment report(s) on experience gained in the development of national PRTRs according to article 6, paragraph 2, of the Protocol.

39. The first meeting of the Working Group of the Parties agreed that no amendments to the provisions of the Protocol were needed at that time and that experience needed to be gathered before such a review should take place. Technical assessment of the provisions of the Protocol has therefore not yet been implemented.

H. Horizontal support areas

40. During 2011–2012, the objective of horizontal support areas was to provide overall support that covered multiple substantive areas of the work programme, inter alia, through secretarial support and staff training.

²⁰ Available from
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/prtr/docs/2011/ece.mp.pp.2011.2.add.2_eng.pdf

Annex

Overview of contributions and expenditures

I. General considerations^a

1. In 2011 the secretariat of the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs observed caution in its allocation of resources, mainly owing to the fact that many contributions were made towards the end of the year, thus creating uncertainty as to the availability of sufficient funds. The secretariat made various efforts to encourage in-kind contributions and thereby reduce the impact on the trust fund. The same policy applies for 2012 since, as of 1 June 2012, a limited number of countries have submitted or pledged contributions for 2012. The secretariat will continue pursuing synergies with other ECE MEAs, with United Nations agencies and other partners in order to maintain a satisfactory number of activities and share implementation costs.

2. During 2011, the secretariat experienced an unprecedented mobility of its staff:

(a) A P-2 fixed-term staff member (paid from the United Nations regular budget), mainly responsible for supporting the work of the Convention Bureau, the Working Group of the Parties to the Convention, administrative and financial matters, left the secretariat on 8 July 2011 for one year of unpaid leave; the staff member was replaced by a P-2 short-term staff member on 17 July 2011;

(b) A P-3 short-term staff member (paid from the donor contributions), mainly responsible for preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP-4), access to justice (AJ), support to the Compliance Committee under the Convention (CC), capacity-building coordination and general support to the secretariat, left the secretariat due to a mandatory service break on 18 August 2011; the staff member was replaced for three months by a P-2 staff member;

(c) A P-3 fixed-term staff member (paid from the donor contributions), mainly responsible for servicing CC, AJ and providing legal advice, was on maternity leave from 30 September 2011 to 19 January 2012;

(d) A P-3 short-term staff member (paid from the donor contributions), mainly responsible for all Protocol on PRTR-related activities and electronic information tools (EIT) for the Convention and the Protocol, including the Aarhus Clearinghouse and PRTR.net, left the secretariat due to a mandatory service break on 15 July 2011; the staff member was replaced by another P-3 staff member on 17 July 2011;

(e) A P-3 short-term staff member (paid from the donor contributions), mainly responsible for the work related to promoting the Convention's GMO amendment, public participation in international forums (PPIF), updating the Convention's Implementation Guide and providing legal advice and support to CC, left the secretariat due to a mandatory service break on 1 January 2011; the staff was replaced by a P-2 staff member for three months.

^a The contributions and expenditures incurred within the period 2009–2010 for the Aarhus Convention and the Protocol on PRTRs, as well as in-kind contributions, are included in the report on the implementation of the work programme for 2009–2011, including in relation to the Strategic Plan 2009–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9), available from http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/mop4/Documents/ece_mp_pp_2011_9_eng.pdf

3. The above situation put an extraordinary amount of pressure on the secretariat and required serious efforts for training of new staff while ensuring the smooth implementation of all activities.

4. The secretariat is in the process of creating three new fixed-term posts in order to discontinue the respective short-term positions. For the sustainability of work it would thus be crucial to ensure staff funding on a long-term basis. This applies to staff funded from the Aarhus Convention trust fund, which means the extension of those contracts depends on the level of contributions received. Since the current financial scheme is based on voluntary contributions and without guidance on their amount, the level of contributions fluctuates, which makes funding of extrabudgetary posts unpredictable and far from secure. The secretariat therefore would be obliged to give priority to securing funds, which need to be reserved at least for one year before issuing a staff contract.

5. The secretariat was able to allocate sufficient funds for staff and for activities in the first part of 2012 only due to savings accumulated as of 31 December 2011.

II. Contributions

A. Contributions received between 1 January–31 December 2011

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Original amount</i>	<i>Total for 2011 in USD (unless specified in remarks)</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	USD	429.00	429.00	Unspecified ^d
Armenia	USD	250.00	250.00	Unspecified
Austria	EUR	10 000.00	14 306.15	Aarhus Convention
Austria	EUR	3 677.55	5 044.65	Protocol on PRTRs
Belarus	USD	300.00	300.00	Unspecified
Belgium (federal)	EUR	22 000.00	30 013.64	Unspecified
Belgium (Brussels Region)	EUR	945.00	1 289.22	Unspecified
Belgium (Flemish Region)	USD	8 499.00	8 499.00	Unspecified
Belgium (Walloon Region)	EUR	3 465.00	4 942.94	Unspecified
Belgium (Walloon Region)	EUR	5 200.00	6 933.33	Protocol on PRTRs
Bulgaria	USD	8 712.00	8 712.00	Received for 2012, earmarked for Protocol on PRTRs
Croatia	USD	6 000.00	6 000.00	Unspecified
Czech Republic	USD	15 000.00	15 000.00	Received for 2012, earmarked for Aarhus Convention
Denmark	USD	67 170.00	67 170.00	Aarhus Convention for years 2010–2012
Denmark	USD	33 570.00	33 570.00	Protocol on PRTRs for years 2010–2012
Estonia	USD	500.00	500.00	Protocol on PRTRs
Estonia	EUR	980.20	1 306.93	Aarhus Convention

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Original amount</i>	<i>Total for 2011 in USD (unless specified in remarks)</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Finland	EUR	5 000.00	7 153.08	Earmarked for MOP-4
Finland	EUR	10 000.00	14 084.51	Unspecified
France	EUR	92 000.00	131 054.13	Aarhus Convention (of which EUR 17 000 earmarked for work on PPIF)
France	USD	39 267.00	39 267.00	Protocol on PRTRs
Georgia	USD	250.00	250.00	Unspecified
Germany	USD	60 000.00	60 000.00	Aarhus Convention
Ireland	EUR	5 000.00	6 811.99	Unspecified
Ireland	EUR	5 000.00	6 666.67	Received for 2012, earmarked for Aarhus Convention
Italy	EUR	100 000.00	137 362.64	Of which EUR 10 000 for Protocol on PRTRs
Latvia	EUR	2 000.00	2 735.00	Aarhus Convention for 2012
Latvia	EUR	1 000.00	1 333.33	Protocol on PRTRs
Netherlands	EUR	40 000.00	59 259.26	50% for Aarhus Convention and 50% for Protocol on PRTRs
Norway	USD	39 970.00	39 970.00	50% for Aarhus Convention and 50% for Protocol on PRTRs
Norway	NOK	300 000.00	53 100.16	Earmarked for travel support for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
Norway	NOK	350 000.00	59 704.35	Aarhus Convention (NOK 200 000) and Protocol on PRTRs (NOK 150 000)
Norway	USD	62 222.10	62 222.10	Received for 2012, earmarked for Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs
Poland	EUR	10 000.00	14 814.81	Unspecified
Republic of Moldova	USD	500.00	500.00	Unspecified
Serbia	USD	500.00	500.00	Unspecified
Serbia	USD	500.00	500.00	Unspecified for 2010
Slovakia	USD	956.00	956.00	Aarhus Convention
Slovenia	EUR	3 500.00	4 992.87	Aarhus Convention
Slovenia	EUR	3 500.00	4 992.87	Aarhus Convention for 2010
Slovenia	EUR	500.00	713.27	Protocol on PRTRs
Slovenia	EUR	500.00	713.27	Protocol on PRTRs for 2010
Sweden	USD	19 975.00	19 975.00	Unspecified
Sweden	USD	4 980.00	4 980.00	Protocol on PRTRs
Switzerland	CHF	50 000.00	60 024.01	Protocol on PRTRs
Tajikistan	USD	200.00	200.00	unspecified
Ukraine	EUR	3 000.00	4 000.00	Aarhus Convention
United Kingdom	GBP	30 000.00	49 342.11	Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Original amount</i>	<i>Total for 2011 in USD (unless specified in remarks)</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
United Kingdom	GBP	30 000.00	47 543.58	Aarhus Convention 2010
European Union	EUR	100 000.00	141 442.72	Aarhus Convention
European Union	USD	12 992.88	12 992.88	Protocol on PRTRs
Total			1 254 424.47	of which, 263 722.20 explicitly for Protocol on PRTRs

^a The contributing country did not specify whether this contribution should be used for the activities under the Aarhus Convention or the Protocol on PRTRs.

B. Contributions received between 1 January 2012–11 June 2012

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Original amount</i>	<i>Total for 2012 in USD (unless specified in remarks)</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Albania	USD	1 000.00	1 000.00	Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2011
Austria	EUR	10 000.00	12 919.90	Aarhus Convention 2012
Austria	EUR	3 949.45	5 102.65	Protocol on PRTRs 2012
Croatia	USD	6 000.00	6 000.00	50% for Aarhus Convention and 50% Protocol on PRTRs 2012
Czech Republic	USD	10 000.00	10 000.00	Protocol on PRTRs 2012
Finland	EUR	5 000.00	6 622.52	Aarhus Convention 2012
France	EUR	65 000.00	87 131.37	EUR 60 000 to support Aarhus Convention activities in 2012 and EUR 5 000 for work on PPIF
Georgia	USD	250.00	250.00	Aarhus Convention 2012
Germany	USD	60 000.00	60 000.00	Aarhus Convention 2012
Hungary	USD	5 000.00	5 000.00	Aarhus Convention 2011
Hungary	USD	500.00	500.00	Protocol on PRTRs 2011
Italy	EUR	100 000.00	134 048.26	90% for Aarhus Convention and 10% for Protocol on PRTRs 2012
Netherlands	EUR	40 000.00	49 689.44	Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2012
Netherlands	EUR	3 000.00	3 663.00	Aarhus Convention 2008
Sweden	USD	3 975.00	3 975.00	To promote the Aarhus Convention at Rio+20 Conference
Sweden	USD	25 000.00	25 000.00	20 000 for Aarhus Convention and 5 000 for Protocol on PRTRs
Total			410 902.14	of which 37 007.47 explicitly for Protocol on PRTRs

Note: No financial contributions, no in-kind contributions and/or no pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Aarhus Convention in 2011: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. No financial contributions, no in-kind contributions and/or no pledges have been received from the following Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs in 2011: Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

C. In-kind contributions

6. In addition to the in-kind contributions reported at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2011/9), the following in-kind contributions were also made for:

(a) The organization of MOP-4, provided by the Government of the Republic of Moldova, by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and by OSCE;

(b) The participation of NGOs in MOP-4, for which the Government of Italy provided EUR 7,000;

(c) A side event on the Protocol on PRTRs during the Astana Ministerial Conference, provided by the Government of Kazakhstan and by OSCE;

(d) The organization of the subregional workshop on the Protocol on PRTRs for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, provided by the Government of Belarus;

(e) The translation into French of the synthesis report on the status of implementation for MOP-4, provided by Government of Belgium;

(f) The translation into Russian of the simplified PRTR guide, provided by the Government of Belarus;

(g) The translation into Spanish and publishing of the full *Guidance on Implementation for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers*, provided by the Central American Commission on Environment and Development and financed by the Government of Spain;

(h) The hosting of the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy and the PRTR.net portals in 2012, provided by GRID-Arendal;

(i) Support for the travel of the secretariat to the second South-Eastern Europe Regional Coordination meeting (Sarajevo, 5–6 December 2011), provided by OSCE;

(j) Support for the organization of a subregional meeting for Central Asian countries in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 22–23 May 2012, provided by OSCE;

(k) Support from the Governments of Sweden and Ireland for the travel of the Chair of the Task Force on Access to Justice and the Chair of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making, respectively;

(l) Support from the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, Italy, Poland and Mongolia and by UNDP Mongolia to the ECE mission to promote the Aarhus Convention in Mongolia (25–26 April 2012);

(m) Support for the travel of the secretariat to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) hearing on the Lisbon Treaty (Brussels, 17 April 2012), provided by EESC;

(n) Support for the travel of the secretariat to the meeting of the EESC Section on Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and the Information Society (Brussels, 25 June 2012), provided by EESC;

(o) Support provided by the European ECO Forum for the travel of secretariat staff to the colloquium, “Effectiveness of the Compliance mechanism under the Aarhus Convention and addressing issues to Rio +20 and other MEAs” (Vienna, 14–15 May 2012);

(p) Promotion of the Protocol on PRTRs in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, by the Government of Spain.

III. Estimated expenditures and balance^b

A. Expenditures in 2011 (in United States dollars)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Expenditures Aarhus Convention</i>	<i>Expenditures Protocol on PRTRs</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
P-3: MOP-4 preparations, AJ, CC, capacity-building	103 827.88	–	103 827.88	Staff costs for January-August 2011 and December 2011
P-2: capacity-building, promotion, CC, general support to the secretariat	9 858.25	–	9 858.25	Staff costs for September-November 2011
P-3: Legal advice, CC, AJ	158 627.47	–	158 627.47	Staff costs for January-December 2011
P-3: EIT, Clearinghouse, PRTR.net; Protocol on PRTRs (60%)	61 399.63	92 099.44	153 499.07	Staff costs for January-December 2011
P-3: GMO, PPIF, Implementation Guide, CC, Legal advice	114 674.96	–	114 674.96	Staff costs for April-December 2011
P-2: GMO, PPIF, Implementation Guide	26 106.97	–	26 106.97	Staff costs for January-March 2011
Administrative support personnel	20 708.86	–	20 708.86	Staff costs for February-March 2011
Travel of staff on official business	9 487.44	6 378.18	15 865.62	
Travel of experts	244 332.30	37 156.58	281 488.88	e.g., Convention Meeting of the Parties, Convention Working Group of the Parties, CC, Convention Bureau, Convention task forces, Protocol Working Group of the Parties, Protocol CC, Protocol Bureau
Consultancies	80 940.33	–	80 940.33	e.g., International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) Services for MOP-4, Analytical studies on AJ, translations for CC, synthesis report for MOP-4, Implementation Guide
Grants	–	26 655	26 655	Subregional Workshop on the Protocol on PRTRs for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia
In-service training	600.93	–	600.93	

^b The estimated costs shown here are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions made under the Convention's and Protocol's schemes of financial arrangements through the trust fund. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget. In addition to the staff included in the following table, the salary and other entitlements of one staff member in the General Service category is covered by the 13 per cent programme support costs levied from the trust funds of the ECE Environment Division. Figures are rounded up. They may change in accordance with United Nations administrative regulations.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Expenditures Aarhus Convention</i>	<i>Expenditures Protocol on PRTRs</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Subtotal	830 565.02	162 289.20	992 854.22	
13% programme support costs	107 973.45	21 097.60	129 071.00	
Total	938 538.47	183 386.80	1 121 925.27	

B. Balance on 31 December 2011

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount (in USD)</i>
[1] Available funds as of 1 January 2011	1 441 323.04
[2] Total Contributions received between 1 January–31 December 2011	1 254 424.47
[3] Total Expenditures in 2011	1 121 925.27
Total available funds as of 31 December 2011 [1]+[2]-[3]	1 573 822.24

C. Expenditures for 2012 (in United States dollars)^c

<i>Description</i>	<i>Expenditures Aarhus Convention</i>	<i>Expenditures Protocol on PRTRs</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
P-3: AJ, access to information, CC, capacity-building	180 000	–	180 000	Staff costs for January-December 2012
P-3: Legal advice, CC, AJ	180 000	–	180 000	Staff costs for January-December 2012
P-3: EIT, Clearinghouse; PRTR.net, Protocol on PRTRs (60%)	72 000	108 000	180 000	Staff costs for January-December 2012
P-3: GMO, PPIF, Implementation Guide, CC, legal advice	180 000	–	180 000	Staff costs for January-December 2012

^c The estimated costs shown here are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions made under the Convention's and Protocol's schemes of financial arrangements through the trust fund. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget. In addition to the staff included in the following table, the salary and other entitlements of one staff member in the General Service category is covered by the 13 per cent programme support costs levied from the trust funds of the ECE Environment Division. Figures are rounded up. They may change in accordance with United Nations administrative regulations.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Expenditures Aarhus Convention</i>	<i>Expenditures Protocol on PRTRs</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Consultancies	60 000	5 000	65 000	e.g., Public participation, AJ, CC, Convention evaluations (financial and evaluation on the functioning of the Convention), Implementation Guide (design and translation into Russian), online PRTR reporting Tool
Travel of experts	250 000	65 000	315 000	e.g., Convention Working Group of the Parties, CC, Convention Bureau, task forces, Protocol Working Group of the Parties, Protocol CC, Protocol Bureau
Travel of staff on official business	16 000	4 000	20 000	
Subtotal	938 000	182 000	1 120 000	
13% programme support	121 940	23 660	145 600	
Total	1 059 940	205 660	1 265 600	

D. Projected balance on 31 December 2012 (as of 1 June 2012)

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount (in USD)</i>
[1] Available funds as of 31 December 2011	1 573 822.24
[2] Received contributions January-June 2012 (estimated)	410 902.14
[3] Funds to be committed by end 2012 (estimated)	1 265 600.00
Projected balance on 31 December 2012 [1]+[2]-[3]	719 124.38

IV. Pledges (as of 11 June 2012)

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Belarus	USD	300	Aarhus Convention 2012
Belgium (Federal)	EUR	22 000	Aarhus Convention 2012
Belgium (Walloon Region)	EUR	3 465	Aarhus Convention 2012
Belgium (Brussels Region)	EUR	945	Aarhus Convention 2012
Belgium (Flemish Region)	USD	8 499	Aarhus Convention 2012
Belgium (Walloon Region)	EUR	5 200	Protocol on PRTRs 2012
Hungary	USD	5 000	Aarhus Convention 2012

<i>Donor country</i>	<i>Original currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Switzerland	CHF	70 000	Protocol on PRTRs 2012 (of which 50 000 to support capacity-building for countries with economies in transition)
Turkmenistan	USD	350	Aarhus Convention 2012
United Kingdom	GBP	30 000	Aarhus Convention and Protocol on PRTRs 2012
European Union	EUR	100 000	Aarhus Convention 2012
