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
Working Group of the Parties
Third meeting
Geneva, 20 and 21 November 2013
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the third meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations,* Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 20 November 2013**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.

* As part of the accreditation procedures for delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations, delegates are requested to complete the registration form available on the meeting web page (http://www.unece.org/prtrwgp3.html) and to transmit it to the secretariat by no later than 6 November 2013 by e-mail (public.participation@unece.org). Eligible delegates applying for financial support should submit the registration and the financial support forms before 16 October 2013. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website, http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2650.

** The meeting is expected to close at 4 p.m. on Thursday, 21 November 2013 with the possibility of an extension until 6 p.m. subject to progress achieved in the discussions. The detailed timing and organization of work will be made available on the meeting web page in early September 2013.

3. Designation of national focal points.

4. Promotion and capacity-building:
   (a) Synergies with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe multilateral environmental agreements and other partners;
   (b) Subregional workshops;
   (c) Provision of technical assistance;
   (d) Communication strategy, electronic tools and publications;
   (e) Global promotion of the Protocol;
   (f) Other relevant activities.

5. Compliance and reporting mechanisms.

6. Implementation of the current work programme of the Protocol, including financial matters.

7. Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol:
   (a) Hosting and preparatory timeline;
   (b) Substantive preparations;
      (i) Agenda of the second session;
      (ii) Strategic plan for 2015–2020;
      (iii) Reporting requirements;
      (iv) Programme of work for 2015–2017;
      (v) Financial arrangements under the Protocol;
      (vi) Declaration.

8. Calendar of meetings.

9. Other business.

10. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

   The Working Group of the Parties to 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) will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

   The Working Group will consider an overview of the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Protocol.
Delegations will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments concerning the ratification, acceptance or approval of or accession to the Protocol on PRTRs in their respective countries.

3. Designation of national focal points

The Working Group will consider an overview of the status of designation of national focal points. Delegations will be invited to report on any developments concerning the designation of national focal points.

Documentation
Overview of designation of national focal points (PRTR/WG.1/2013/Inf.1)

4. Promotion and capacity-building

(a) Synergies with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe multilateral environmental agreements and other partners

The Chair will inform the Working Group about the outcomes of the informal meeting of the representatives of governing bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), held on 27 February 2013 in Geneva.1

The Working Group will be invited to consider potential areas for cooperation with ECE MEAs and other partners. In that connection, it will be informed of the relevant activities carried out by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Task Force on PRTRs, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and other partner organizations of relevance to the Protocol’s work programme.

(b) Subregional workshops

The Working Group will consider outcomes of the subregional workshop aimed at the promotion of the Protocol on PRTRs in South-Eastern Europe and Israel, which was jointly organized by the ECE and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Sarajevo on 28 and 29 May 2013.

Documentation
Report on the subregional workshop, “Get Your Right to a Healthy Community” (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/3)

(c) Provision of technical assistance

The Working Group will consider a proposal by Belarus and Armenia on activities for the promotion of the Protocol on PRTRs in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

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1 See http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/environment-conventions/all/joint-work.html
(d) **Communication strategy, electronic tools and publications**

The Working Group will consider outcomes of the survey carried out in accordance with the communication strategy (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.2). The Working Group will be informed about the recent developments regarding electronic tools, including the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy and the PRTR.net global portal and on the relevant cooperation between ECE, OECD and UNITAR.

*Documentation*

Outcomes of the survey on the communication strategy (PRTR/WG.1/2013/Inf.2)

(e) **Global promotion of the Protocol**

The Working Group will consider the outcomes of the joint global round table on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) to be organized under the auspices of OECD and ECE, in cooperation with UNITAR, on 19 November 2013 in Geneva.

(f) **Other relevant activities**

Delegations will be invited to consider other relevant capacity-building and promotion activities.

5. **Compliance and reporting mechanisms**

The Working Group will be invited to consider: (a) developments with regard to the compliance mechanism and (b) the status of preparation of national implementation reports.

*Documentation*

Membership of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/5)

6. **Implementation of the current work programme for the Protocol, including financial matters**

The Working Group will consider the status of implementation of the Protocol’s current work programme (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision 1/6, annex I),\(^2\) taking into consideration the outcomes of the discussion held under previous items.

The Working Group will be informed about the contributions received to support the implementation of the Protocol’s current work programme and the expenditures incurred during 2012–2013 and projected for 2014. Delegations will be invited to make pledges to support implementation of the work programme. The Working Group will discuss the issue and make recommendations, as needed.

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\(^2\) This document is available from http://live.unece.org/env/pp/mopp1.html
7. **Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol**

(a) **Hosting and preparatory timeline**

The Working Group will be informed about the preparations for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, to be held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, from 2 to 4 July 2014.

**Documentation**

Note on the preparatory timeline for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (PRTR/WG.1/2013/Inf.3)

(b) **Substantive preparations**

The Working Group will be invited to consider substantive preparations for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties.

(i) **Agenda of the second session**

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft provisional agenda for the second session, prepared by the Bureau, and mandate the Bureau to finalize it for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.

**Documentation**

Outline of the agenda for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/7)

(ii) **Strategic plan for 2015–2020**

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on the strategic plan for 2015–2020, prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties.

**Documentation**


(iii) **Reporting requirements**

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on reporting requirements prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties.

**Documentation**

Draft decision on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/9)
(iv) Work programme for 2015–2017

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation


(v) Financial arrangements under the Protocol

The Working Group will be invited to consider and approve the draft decision on financial arrangements prepared by the Bureau, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

Draft decision on financial arrangements under the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/11)

(vi) Declaration

The Working Group will be invited to consider a draft declaration prepared by the Bureaux of the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol and to the Convention, and to mandate the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to finalize it in cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, with a view to its submission for consideration and adoption at the high-level segment to take place under the auspices of the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol and the Convention.

Documentation

Draft declaration (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/12)

8. Calendar of meetings

The Working Group will be informed about the calendar of meetings for 2013–2014.

9. Other business

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

10. Adoption of decisions and outcomes of the meeting

The Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs is expected to adopt the decisions and outcomes of the meeting.