



**Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the  
UNECE Protocol on PRTR to the Aarhus Convention  
First session (Geneva 28-29 November 2011)**

Item 5: Promotion and capacity-building

**Draft position of the EU and its Member States**

**Item 5a of the Provisional Agenda –  
Coordination mechanism**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We consider that the “International PRTR coordinating group” should continue to play an important role in promoting the development of PRTRs worldwide, complementing the work of the Protocol. Concerning the coordination of capacity-building activities led under the Protocol, advantage should be taken of the experience gained under the Aarhus Convention through the organization of “coordination meetings”, allowing exchange of information on such activities between parties concerned.

We believe that it is helpful to use the experience gained by our colleagues in other fields, especially on the Aarhus Convention but also other Conventions such as CLTRAP and the UNECE Water Convention.

We also believe that coordination mechanisms could be improved by holding expert meetings under the Aarhus Convention close to each other.

Thank you for your attention.

**Item 5b and 5c of the Provisional Agenda –  
Side events and subregional workshops**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We encourage capacity-building activities and in particular the organization of any specifically focused meetings and workshops, as important elements in the implementation of the PRTR Protocol.

The strengthening of the links with experts from the other international organizations involved in PRTRs development, could be of great value. In order to share best practice, we encourage the Secretariat to keep an updated list of National Focal Points.

Thank you for your attention.

**Item 5d of the Provisional Agenda –  
Communication strategy, electronic tools and publications**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

We support the idea of strengthening the use of the capacity-building matrix as a tool to exchange information between the Parties, Signatories, international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations and other countries, not only in UNECE region but also worldwide, since the PRTR Protocol is open to any UN member, while the geographic scope is the UNECE region. We believe that it will enhance the effective implementation of the Protocol and to promote the ratification by signatories and third countries.

In order to enhance cooperation and facilitate sharing of best practices, we invite all Parties to make their PRTRs open to all and accessible online.

The European Union and its Member States support the proposal of the holding the meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) back-to-back with the next meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the PRTR Protocol.

We also consider the value of ensuring that the systems that we have developed are made available to assist Parties. With this in mind we would like to recall that the E-

PRTR software system hosted by the European Environment Agency is open source software accessible to all. Individual EU Member States have also made their systems open source.

Thank you for your attention.