



**PRTR Protocol to the Aarhus Convention 2nd Meeting of the Working Group of
the Parties
(Geneva, 20-21 November 2012)
- Position of the EU and its Member States -**

Item 8. Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

The EU would like to thank the Netherlands for their offer to host the second session of the Meeting of the Parties back to back with the Meeting of the Parties of the Aarhus Convention; we strongly support its proposal.

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Chair, the Bureau and the secretariat for their work on drafting a proposal on the preparation of the strategic plan 2015-2020. It will be necessary to start preparations now for the development of a strategic plan in order to have sufficient time for adoption at the next MOP in 2014. The prepared document is a good starting point for further discussion.

We believe that national implementation reports are the most important and useful tools for the preparation of the strategic plan. Such reports will however not be ready by the time the plan is finalized. Nevertheless, we believe the secretariat and the Bureau should, insofar as possible, use existing information gathered as part of recent surveys on capacity building, etc. In order to prepare the strategic plan, we also believe that the plan should be kept under review so as to incorporate any steps and programmes needed to address emerging issues identified in national implementation reports when published.

Furthermore, we would like to point out that in the 'Draft proposal on the preparation of the strategic plan 2015-2020' (doc. ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2012/8), the distribution of responsibilities regarding the drafting process is not clear enough. We would like to propose the following:

1. As the strategic plan is a very important document, we agree that the Bureau would develop the first draft and that the drafting process should be led by the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties in close cooperation with the Bureau, including its observer and assisted by the secretariat. This should be reflected in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 should be deleted.
2. In paragraph 5 we suggest to add the word 'indicative' to the heading 'type of activity' in the table.
3. In paragraph 6, first sentence we propose to add 'inter alia' after 'constitute' so that the sentence reads: 'The Protocol's future work programmes would ideally constitute inter alia an operational reflection of the new strategic plan.'

In order to facilitate the work of the secretariat, these changes are also reflected in track changes in the UNECE's document.
