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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND
ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Fifth meeting
Geneva, 22–24 October 2007
Item 4 (g) of the provisional agenda

**PREPARATIONS FOR THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE PROTOCOL AND
THE FIRST SESSION OF ITS MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

**DRAFT DECISION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORKING GROUP
OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON POLLUTANT RELEASE AND
TRANSFER REGISTERS**

Draft decision prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling article 17, paragraph 2 (e), of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which states that the Meeting of the Parties may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary,

Recalling also its decision I/[...] on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes and on the work programme for [2009 – 2011],

Recognizing the need for an effective structure to oversee activities under the auspices of the Protocol between [the first and second ordinary] sessions of the Meeting of the Parties,

Recognizing also the need to ensure, when not already done by another body, exchange of information on technical issues dealing with practical implementation of the Protocol,

Convinced that the Bureau needs assistance and advice when preparing the [second ordinary session][sessions] of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol,

Believing that a subsidiary body is the best way to ensure the full participation of stakeholders in the preparation of the [second ordinary session][sessions] of the Meeting of the Parties,

1. *Establishes* an open-ended ad hoc subsidiary body, to be called the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol [on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers];
2. *Requests* the Working Group to:
 - (a) Oversee the implementation of the work programme;
 - (b) Prepare the [second ordinary session][sessions] of the Meeting of the Parties;
 - (c) While avoiding duplication with existing technical assistance activities, exchange information on technical issues dealing with practical implementation of the Protocol, such as:
 - (i) Identification of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers reporting facilities;
 - (ii) Use of electronic tools;
 - (iii) Determination of methods for measuring, calculating or estimating releases and transfers;
 - (iv) Identification of releases from diffuse sources;
 - (v) Quality assessment of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers data;
 - (vi) Collection and assessment of data by authorities;
 - (d) Exchange examples of good practices on public participation in the development of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers;
 - (e) Assess the guidance document on implementation of the Protocol and, if necessary, update it;
 - (f) [Prepare for the second ordinary session of the meeting of the Parties a synthesis report summarizing the national implementation reports submitted by the Parties, on the basis of a draft report prepared by the secretariat in accordance with decision I/[...] on reporting requirements;]

(g) Make proposals and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties as it considers necessary for the achievement of the purposes of the Protocol;

[(h) Conclude its work by the time of the second ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;]

3. *Also requests* the Working Group to meet no less than once [a year] [during the intersessional period], and to organize its work, within the means available, in the way that it deems most effective;

4. *Further requests* its officers and Bureau to serve as the officers and the Bureau of the Working Group.
