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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Working Group for the Preparation of the  
First Meeting of the Parties to the  
Convention on Access to Information,  
Public Participation in Decision-making and  
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters  
(First meeting, Geneva, 28-30 November 2001)

**PREPARATION OF A DRAFT DECISION ON POLLUTANT RELEASE AND  
TRANSFER REGISTERS FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

1. At its second meeting, the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) decided that work should start on the preparation of a draft decision on pollutant release and transfer registers for the Meeting of the Parties (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/5, para. 51). The draft decision would effectively mandate the continuation, under the authority of the Meeting of the Parties, of the work undertaken by the Working Group up to that point under the authority of the Committee on Environmental Policy. The Working Group on PRTRs agreed that the matter should be referred to the Working Group preparing the first meeting of the Parties.
2. A draft decision on the matter, prepared by the secretariat, is included in the annex below.

**Annex**

**DRAFT DECISION I/ [..]**

**POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS**

The Meeting,

Recalling article 5, paragraph 9, and article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention,

Recalling also the decision taken at the seventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group charged with the preparation of a legally binding instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers, with a view to having such an instrument ready for adoption at the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Kiev, 1/

Noting with approval the reports of this Working Group under the Committee on Environmental Policy, 2/

Bearing in mind that since the seventh session of the Committee, the Convention has entered into force, and it is therefore appropriate for further work on pollutant release and transfer registers to be continued under the aegis of the Meeting of the Parties,

1. Establishes an open-ended ad hoc subsidiary body called the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, to replace the above-mentioned Working Group under the Committee;
2. Decides that the mandate of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers will be to prepare a legally binding instrument in the form of a protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers, thereby finishing the work of the first Working Group;
3. Calls upon the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to complete its work in time to ensure that the instrument may be adopted at an extraordinary meeting of the Parties to be convened on the occasion of the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” at Kiev;
4. Calls on the Parties to the Convention, other member States of the UNECE and other States that may accede to the Convention pursuant to its article 19, paragraph 3, to participate actively in the preparation of the protocol;
5. Invites all interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations falling within the scope of article 10, paragraph 4 and 5 of the Convention to contribute to this process.

1/ See ECE/CEP/74, paragraph 30 (b).

2/ See CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/2, and [...]