



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Meeting of the Signatories 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
(Fourth meeting, Geneva, 26 – 28 March 2002)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,
starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 26 March 2002

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report from the technical group.
3. Preparation of a draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers
(CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 and CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/3).
4. Any other business.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers was established by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its seventh session, following a recommendation from the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention, for the purpose of preparing a legally binding instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) (ECE/CEP/74, para. 30 (b), and CEP/WG.5/2000/2, para. 28 (c), respectively). At its eighth session, the Committee underlined the importance of the draft text being ready in time for adoption at the Kiev Ministerial Conference, so that it would be one of the key outcomes of the Conference, and decided that the instrument should take the form of a protocol to the Convention, open to accession by non-ECE countries and by non-Parties to the Convention (ECE/CEP/80, para. 31 (d) and (e)).

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group is invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2. Report from the technical group

At the third meeting of the Working Group, it was agreed that the technical group would hold its third meeting on 25 March 2002 to address the issues of data collection, handling, storage and dissemination. The Chairperson of the technical group, Mr. Geert van Grootveld (Netherlands), will report to the Working Group on the outcome of that meeting.

Item 3. Preparation of a draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers

At its third meeting, the Working Group invited its Chairperson, Mr. Karel Blaha (Czech Republic), to prepare an updated draft text of the protocol, with the assistance of the secretariat and a small drafting group (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/9, paras. 56 and 58). The drafting group met in Ottawa on 9-11 January 2002 at the invitation of the Government of Canada and a new draft text was prepared. This text, contained in document CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/3, is intended to largely replace articles 1 to 4 of document CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/3.

Under this agenda item, the Working Group will be invited to focus initially on those provisions in documents CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/3 and 6 that were not discussed at its previous meetings, taking into account document CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/7, the proposals of the small expert groups on transfers, diffuse sources and PRTR principles established by the Working Group at its second meeting and the comments provided by delegations in accordance with the procedures agreed at that meeting (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/5, paras. 44-45) where relevant. Time permitting, the Working Group will then be invited to consider document CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/3.

Item 4. Any other business

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