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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
(Fifth meeting, Geneva, 24 – 28 June 2002)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 24 June 2002

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. The “virtual classroom”
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.2/2002/2, 3 and 7).
4. Any other business.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The fifth meeting of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers will take place on 24 - 28 June 2002 in Geneva. The Working Group will continue the preparation of a draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs) with the aim of having the instrument ready for adoption at the Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference in Kiev, May 2003.

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

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

Item 2. The "virtual classroom"

At its fourth meeting, the Working Group considered a proposal from the technical group to establish a "virtual classroom" for communication, learning and capacity-building with respect to establishing and maintaining PRTR systems. A small informal group was set up, consisting of the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Regional Environmental Center for Central and eastern Europe, Eco-Accord, and ECO Forum/Interactive Health Ecology Access Links, with the support of the secretariat, to further develop the proposal. The Netherlands would take the lead in the work. The Chair of the technical group, Mr. Geert van Grootveld (Netherlands), will report on its preparatory work and the Working Group will be invited to consider further steps.

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

At its fifth meeting, the Working Group will be invited to first consider the structure of the entire draft protocol so as to set the context for the discussions (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/2, para. 72).

The Working Group will then be invited to turn to the various technical annexes and in this regard to take into account document CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/7 relating to substances, activities, transfers and validation of data, prepared by the secretariat, as well as the reports of the first and second meetings of the technical group, included in documents CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/5, annex I, CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2001/9, annex, and CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/2, annex.

The Chairperson will introduce documents CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/3 and 7, which principally represent the output of the two meetings of the drafting group, held in Ottawa, 9-11 January 2002, and Geneva, 9-12 April 2002. The Working Group is expected to use these documents as the basis for further preparation of the draft protocol.

Item 4. Any other business

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