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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  
(First meeting, Geneva, 25 – 29 November 2002)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,  
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 25 November 2002

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report on the activities of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers established under the auspices of the Committee on Environmental Policy.
4. Preparation of a draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/9 and 11).
5. Any other business.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

At their first meeting (Lucca, Italy, 21-23 October 2002), the Parties to the Convention will consider establishing an open-ended, ad hoc subsidiary body to be called the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (MP.PP/2002/3). According to the draft decision, the Working Group will be charged with the task of preparing a draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers, and requested to complete its work so that the protocol can be adopted and opened for signature at the Kiev Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe'. The new Working Group is therefore expected to finish the task started by the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers established under the auspices of the Committee on Environmental Policy ('the former Working Group').

This provisional agenda has been prepared in the expectation that the draft decision will be adopted by the Parties without amendment.

### Item 1. Election of officers

In the draft decision, the Meeting of the Parties welcomes the offer of the Czech Republic to chair the new Working Group. The Czech Republic has nominated Mr. Karel Blaha, Chairperson of the former Working Group, to fulfil this task. The Working Group may wish to elect one or more vice-chairpersons.

### Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

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

### Item 3. Report on the activities of the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers established under the auspices of the Committee on Environmental Policy

The Chairperson of the former Working Group is expected to report on the progress achieved by that Working Group towards developing a draft protocol. The Vice-Chairperson of the former Working Group, Mr. Geert van Grootveld (Netherlands), is expected to report on the results of an evaluation of the "virtual classroom", as well as on plans for its further development (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/9, para. 13).

### Item 4. Preparation of a draft protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers

At its sixth meeting, the former Working Group mandated a small drafting group to assist its Chairperson in preparing a consolidated text of the draft protocol. The drafting group met on 18-21 September 2002 and prepared a draft of such a consolidated text, which was subsequently finalized by the Chairperson following further consultations with the drafting group (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/11).

A contact group comprising technical experts was established by the former Working Group to address the content of the annexes to the Protocol. The contact group met on 17-18 September 2002 to undertake further work on the lists of pollutants and activities to be covered

by the protocol. The outcome of that meeting is reflected in the annex to the report of the sixth meeting of the former Working Group (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/9).

The consolidated text and the report of the sixth meeting of the former Working Group are expected to form the basis for the further preparation of the draft protocol.

Having regard to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft decision of the Meeting of the Parties, the Working Group will be invited to take into account the analysis of the legal, administrative, institutional, practical and financial implications of the protocol being open to all States and regional economic integration organizations, whether or not they are Parties to the Convention (CEP/WG.5/AC.2/2002/12).

Item 5.      Any other business

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