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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

Sixth meeting  
Geneva, 24–26 November 2008  
Item 5 (e) 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**

**Draft decision by the Working Group on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers<sup>1</sup>**

*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 shall establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary,

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<sup>1</sup> As agreed by the Working Group at its fifth meeting (22–24 October 2007).

*Recalling also* decision I[...] on the procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes and on the work programme for [2010–2012],

*Recognizing* the need for an effective structure to oversee activities under the auspices of the Protocol between sessions of the Meeting of the Parties,

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

*Convinced* that the Bureau needs assistance and advice when preparing the 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 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;

2. *Requests* the Working Group:

(a) To oversee the implementation of the work programme;

(b) To prepare the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties;

(c) While avoiding duplication with existing technical assistance activities, to 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;

(vii) Exploration of methodologies by which the information can be presented to the public;

(d) To exchange examples of good practices on public participation in the development of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers;

(e) To assess the guidance document on implementation of the Protocol and, if necessary, update it;

(f) To make proposals and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties as it considers necessary for the achievement of the purposes of the Protocol;

3. *Also requests* the Working Group to meet no less than once during the intersessional period, while recognizing that more frequent meetings may be necessary in order for the Working Group to be able to fulfil its tasks, 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.

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