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### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Sixth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (PRTR WGP 6) (Geneva, 9 November 2018)  
- Compilation of statements by the EU and its Member States

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Delegations will find in the Annex, for information, a compilation of statements by the EU and its Member States agreed and delivered during the sixth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs (WGP 6).

**Sixth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**  
**(PRTR WGP 6)**  
**(Geneva, 9 November 2018)**

- **Compilation of statements by the EU and its Member States**

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Good morning everyone, I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Since this is our first intervention at this meeting, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Secretariat for their excellent preparatory work, including the timely submission of comprehensive background documents. Our thanks also to the Chair for her introductory statement and inviting the WGP to adopt the agenda. I would like to add that the EU and its Member States can accept the proposed agenda as it stands.

We are looking forward to a fruitful, inspiring and efficient meeting.

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Agenda item 2: Status of ratification of the Protocol

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the information on the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Protocol. We welcome Montenegro <sup>1</sup> as a new Party to the Protocol.

The Protocol has been ratified by most UNECE member countries. We encourage the remaining Signatories to the Protocol and other interested States to ratify the Protocol in the near future to become Parties to the Protocol.

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Agenda item 4: Promotion and capacity-building

The EU and its Member States would like to thank all relevant stakeholders, especially the Bureau and the Secretariat for their efforts in promoting and implementing the Protocol.

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<sup>1</sup> Ratification on 11 October 2017.

(a) Coordination mechanisms and synergies

The EU and its Member States believe that synergies with other organizations and parties are important. Identifying synergies in implementing MEA's in other fields with the help of PRTR's should be regarded as highly important.

In this respect we continue to support PRTR related coordination activities carried out in particular with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and other organizations such as REC. These cooperations open up new perspectives and are helpful in defining areas for improvement as well as for further development of PRTRs.

(b) Subregional and national activities

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Belarus for its report/s on promoting the Protocol.

(c) Global promotion of the Protocol

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the ECE, OECD and UNITAR as well as UNEP for their efforts that made the third joint Global Round Table on Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers a success. I would like to stress that we very much appreciate the organisation and format of the Third Global Round Table on PRTR's and we are convinced that the outcomes will serve as valuable input for further developing PRTR's.

In this context we would like to take the opportunity to welcome the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean which was adopted on 4 March 2018 in Escazú, Costa Rica, and which also includes an Article on the establishment of PRTRs <sup>2</sup>.

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Agenda item 5: Compliance and reporting mechanisms

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Compliance Committee for its continuous support in implementing the PRTR Protocol and especially for being prepared to support the Bureau in the possible review of Annexes I and II to the Protocol and in identifying gaps in the other provisions of the Protocol. We will comment on this under agenda item 6.

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<sup>2</sup> Article 6 paragraph 4.

## Agenda item 6: Development of the Protocol

The wording of such Decision of the WGP would be:

12. With a view to preparing for the next MOP, the WGP requests the Bureau, with the support of the Compliance Committee:

- a) to draw up a report:
  - (i) in consideration of further development, reviewing the reporting requirements under the Protocol as referred to in Article 6(2) of the Protocol, including possible revisions of Annexes I and II taking into account recent developments in relevant international processes;
  - (ii) identifying possible gaps and examples of imprecise wording or other provisions of the Protocol, for which Parties face implementation challenges.
- b) to submit this report to the WGP at its next meeting for consideration and as a basis for discussions on possible revisions of the Protocol.

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## Agenda item 7: Implementation of the work programmes for 2015-2017 and 2018-2021, including financial matters

The EU and its Member States would like to thank the Secretariat for the report on the implementation of the work programmes for 2015-2017 and 2018-2021. We also thank the Secretariat for its efforts with the survey on progress in implementation of the strategic plan for 2015-2020.

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