PRTRs MOPP4 Side Event

PRTRs: The evidence base instrument for the right to know our environment?

14 October 2021 | 13:00 CEST

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PRTRS MOPP4 SIDE EVENT

PRTRS: THE EVIDENCE BASE INSTRUMENT FOR THE RIGHT TO KNOW OUR ENVIRONMENT?

14 OCTOBER 2021 | 13:00 CEST

SPEAKERS

Marcos ORELLANA
UN Special Rapporteur on the Impact on Human Rights of Hazardous Substances and Wastes

Yves LADOR
Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Earthjustice

Amélie TAOUIFIQ-CAILLIAU
Legal Officer, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions

Christian SCHAIBLE
Policy Manager for Industrial Production, European Environment Bureau (EEB)
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The PRTRs an instrument for the right to know

PRTR Protocol, 4th Meeting of the Parties
Side-event, Geneva, 14 October 2021
Yves Lador, Earthjustice Representation to the UN in Geneva
The PRTRs
an instrument for the right to know

- **8 October 2009**: The Kyiv Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers became international law binding its Parties.

- **PRTRs are inventories of pollution from industrial sites and other sources**

- Its objective is "to enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs)."
The PRTRs
an instrument for the right to know

- It does not regulate pollution!
- It regulates information on pollution.
- The Protocol is expected to exert a significant downward pressure on levels of pollution.
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- Usually companies do not want to be identified as among the biggest polluters.

- All UN Member States can join the Protocol, including those which have not ratified the Aarhus Convention and those which are not members of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. It is by design an 'open' global treaty.
The PRTRs
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The legal basis in the Convention can be found in article 5, paragraph 9, and article 10, paragraph 2.

The Protocol requires each Party to establish a PRTR which is

- **publicly accessible** through Internet, free of charge
- **searchable** according to separate parameters (facility, pollutant, location, medium, etc.)
- **user-friendly** in its structure and provide links to other relevant registers,
- presents **standardized, timely data** on a structured, computerized database;
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an instrument for the right to know

- covers releases and transfers of at least 86 pollutants covered by the Protocol, such as greenhouse gases, acid rain pollutants, ozone-depleting substances, heavy metals, and certain carcinogens, such as dioxins;

- covers releases and transfers from certain types of major point sources (e.g. thermal power stations, mining and metallurgical industries, chemical plants, waste and waste-water treatment plants, paper and timber industries);
The PRTRs
an instrument for the right to know

- accommodates available data on releases from diffuse sources (e.g. transport and agriculture);
- has limited confidentiality provisions; and
- allows for public participation in its development and modification.
The PRTRs
an instrument for the right to know

- mandatory
- annual
- via air, water, land
- facility-specific
- pollutant-specific for releases
- pollutant-specific or waste-specific for transfers.
Thank you for your attention

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Christian SCHAIBLE
Policy Manager for Industrial Production, European Environment Bureau (EEB)
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THANK YOU
AARHUS MOP7 SIDE EVENT

WELCOME GUINEA-BISSAU
OPENING A NEW DIMENSION FOR AARHUS CONVENTION

15 OCTOBER 2021 | 13:00 CEST

> tiny.cc/AarhusGuineaBissau

NEXT SESSION
WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN GENEVA?

EVENT | CONFERENCE
Update on Preparations for the UN Climate Change Conference | Briefing Ahead of UNFCCC COP26
21 OCT 2021 09:30 - 11:00
Palais des Nations | Room XXVI & Online United Kingdom

EVENT | VIRTUAL
25 OCT 2021 15:00
Online | Webex

EVENT | VIRTUAL
Nature-based Solutions and Peacebuilding | Geneva Nature-based Solutions Dialogues
01 NOV 2021 15:00
Online | Webex

EVENT | VIRTUAL
Executive Briefing on the Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
19 OCT 2021 19:00 - 21:00
Online | Webex

EVENT | CINEMA
Wednesdays for the Planet | Alpaqueros
20 OCT 2021 13:30
Online GEN

EVENT | VIRTUAL
Executive Briefing on the United Nations Biodiversity Conference
02 NOV 2021 14:00 - 15:15
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