

Basic information	
2004/0232(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Public access to environmental information: European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. Protocol to the 1998 EEC-UN Convention Subject 3.70 Environmental policy 4.60.02 Consumer information, advertising, labelling	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI	Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	BLOKLAND Johannes (IND /DEM)	30/11/2004
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE	Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	JURI	Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
	Environment		2697	2005-12-02
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Environment			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
06/10/2004	Legislative proposal published	COM(2004)0635 	Summary
12/04/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/05/2005	Vote in committee		Summary

30/05/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0170/2005	
06/07/2005	Decision by Parliament	T6-0285/2005	Summary
06/07/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
02/12/2005	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
02/12/2005	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/02/2006	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2004/0232(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2/3-a1 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p1 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/6/24424

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0170/2005	30/05/2005	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0285/2005 OJ C 157 06.07.2006, p. 0098-0382 E	06/07/2005	Summary
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	COM(2004)0635 	06/10/2004	Summary	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

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Public access to environmental information: European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. Protocol to the 1998 EEC-UN Convention

2004/0232(CNS) - 06/10/2004 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : the Conclusion of a Protocol between the EC and the UN-ECE on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

PROPOSED ACT : Council Decision.

CONTENT : this Decision is being proposed in tandem with a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (refer to COD/2004/0231). The main purpose of the Register is to enhance public access to environmental information through the establishment of a coherent, integrated, European-wide "Pollutant Release and Transfer Register". It is also being proposed within the context of the Aarhus Convention. The Protocol itself requires each Party to establish a PRTR, which:

- Is publicly accessible through Internet, free of charge;
- Is searchable according to separate parameters (facility, pollutant, location, medium, etc.);
- Is user-friendly in its structure and provide links to other relevant registers;
- Presents standardised, timely data on a structured, computerised database;
- Covers releases and transfers of at least 86 pollutants covered by the Protocol, such as greenhouses 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);
- Accommodates available data on releases from diffuse sources (e.g. transport and agriculture);
- Has limited confidentiality provisions;
- Allows for public participation in its development and modification.

In addition, a PRTR should be based on a reporting scheme which is mandatory; annual; multimedia (air, water, land); facility-specific; pollutant-specific for releases and pollutant-specific or waste-specific for transfers.

The proposal contains provisions granting a general mandate to the Commission to participate, on behalf of the Community, in the negotiation of amendments to the annexes, as well as in cases where the Community has to notify non-acceptance. Based on the multi-lateral environmental nature of the Protocol the European Commission calls on the Council to approve the Protocol through the adoption of the proposed Decision.

Public access to environmental information: European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. Protocol to the 1998 EEC-UN Convention

2004/0232(CNS) - 02/12/2005 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the Community, the Protocol between the EC and the UN-ECE on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Decision 2006/61/EC on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the UN-ECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

CONTENT: the Council adopted a decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the United Nations-Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) Protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTR). A PRTR is generally defined as an integrated database or register of pollutants which includes facility-specific data on releases to the environment and transfers of waste. It may also include releases from other relevant sources (diffuse sources).

The most important characteristics of a PRTR include: mandatory and periodical reporting by individual facilities, listing of pollutants, releases to air, water, land and transfers of waste, integrated database at national level, involvement of stakeholders, public accessibility.

In line with this definition, the Protocol contains the following key obligations: establishment and maintenance of (national) PRTR registers covering point sources and diffuse sources; coherent and structured, publicly accessible user-friendly computerized database; reporting requirements at facility level; multimedia pollutant-specific reporting of releases (to air, water and land); reporting of off-site transfers of waste; mandatory reporting on a yearly basis; quality assessment of registered data and voluntary reporting of diffuse sources.

The Protocol covers a total of sixty-four activities and eighty-six substances, subject to possible future amendments.

The UN-ECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Register is an important step towards the full implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

Public access to environmental information: European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register. Protocol to the 1998 EEC-UN Convention

2004/0232(CNS) - 06/07/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Hans BLOKLAND (IND/DEM, NL) and approved the conclusion of the Protocol.