

Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Enhance public access to information and contribute to the prevention and reduction of pollution of the environment.

Kristof Douçot
25 February 2025



UNECE

Aarhus Convention

Promoting inclusive and effective access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice

Get Information

Participate

Seek Justice

Provides solid legal framework and set of practical guidance on *access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice* regarding pollution- and waste- related issues

Major Work Areas and Mechanisms, and Lead Countries

- **Access to Information** (Lead country: Republic of Moldova)
- **Public Participation in Decision-making** (Lead country: Italy)
- **Access to Justice** (Lead country: Belgium)
- **Genetically modified Organisms** (Lead country: Austria)
- **Public Participation in International Forums** (Lead country: France)
- **Protection of Environmental Defenders** (Lead countries: Austria, Ireland)
- **Compliance** (Compliance Committee comprised of independent experts)
- **Reporting**



Cross-cutting treaty: relevant to international processes dealing with pollution and waste

Open for accession to all UN Member States

Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers – Protocol on PRTRs

Collect data

Access data easily

Make decisions – fact based

Investing in PRTRs is investing in the infrastructure needed to prevent and reduce pollution

Reporting tool for industry to provide data on their emissions (monitoring pollutant releases to water, air and land over time)

Database that facilitates data management

Data visualization tool that sets emissions in spatial and other context (e.g. health, infrastructure, demographic and economic data) making data accessible and more useful

Tool for fact-based decision making at multiple levels

Global instrument, open to all UN Member States



86 substances

GHGs, POPs, Phenols, Heavy metals, Pesticides, TOC, PM10, etc.

unece.org/env/pp/protocol-on-prtrs-introduction



Link with other MEAs and instruments

PRTRs are used for multiple reporting obligations and across sectors making best use of synergies

PRTRs are used for the sound management of chemicals

Strong linkage with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and initiatives e.g.: Stockholm Convention, Minamata Convention and UNFCCC Climate Change related reporting

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Fourth Global Round Table on PRTRs – Geneva, 20-21 November 2024

<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/fourth-global-round-table-prtrs>

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOqtFs2WSzsdnBByrSqhMO4_n7gkA3U9F

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- Fourth Global Round Table on PRTRs – Geneva, 20-21
November 2024

<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/fourth-global-round-table-prtrs>

→ Mr. Marcos ORELLANA, United Nations Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights ([pre-recorded video statement](#)) :

→ A/HRC/57/52: Pollution information portals: strengthening access to information on releases of hazardous substances - Report of the Special Rapporteur

<https://undocs.org/A/HRC/57/52>

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<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/fourth-global-round-table-prtrs>

→ Mr. Szilard ERHART, Science for Monitoring, Modelling & Evaluation, Joint Research Centre, European Commission [PDF](#)

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Our PRTR related research outputs



Erhart 2022: Take it with a pinch of salt - ESG Rating of stocks and stock exchanges

- Monte Carlo Simulations
- 1000 stocks, 20 indices
- 2 service providers

- Low correlation of E, S and G
- Low correlation of Raters
[URL](#) - Journal of Int Fin. Analysis



Erhart-Erhart 2023: Environmental Ranking of 30K industrial facilities in terms of global warming and toxicity

- Life-cycle-assessment GHG, biodiv, toxicity

- Low correlation Poll vs GHG
- High-risk industries:
Energy generation & Sewerage
[URL](#) Nature Scientific Reports



Erhart, Erhart, Menyhért 2023: Distance of biodiversity risk areas from industrial facilities, Jul 2023, Conferences in Ljubljana (SI), Dresden (DE), Ispra (IT)

- Environmental Footprint, 10K EU companies

- Distance to natural parks
- Non-reporting risk
- Eutrophication,
[URL](#) - Deutsche Radio



Erhart-Erhart2021: Swedish human toxicity and ecotoxicity footprint analysis

- Environmental Footprint, population at risk

- 7K companies
- Metal and Paper sector risk
[URL](#) - Env. Impact Ass. Review

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nature

SCIENTIFIC
REPORTS

Preprint: Integrating PRTRs and GHG reporting programs for the Climate Change Risk Evaluation of Industrial Companies in AU, CA, the EU & the US, Erhart, S. - Szabo, S. - Erhart, K. 2024, Nature Scientific Reports

<https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-4101250/v1>

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- Tenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs – Geneva, 27-28 November 2023
<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/tenth-meeting-working-group-parties-protocol-prtrs>

→ Mr. Pierre QUIBLIER, UN Environment Programme on Global Framework on Chemical - [PDF](#)

Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers – Protocol on PRTRs



Global Framework on Chemicals
For a Planet Free of Harm From Chemicals and Waste

28 Targets



Target A1 - By 2030, Governments have adopted, and are implementing, and enforcing legal frameworks; and have established appropriate institutional capacity to prevent or where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste as appropriate for their national circumstances.

Target A2 - By 2030, intergovernmental stakeholders develop guidelines to support the needs of interested governments as well as relevant stakeholders to implement effective chemicals and waste management strategies building inter alia on updates of the IOMC Toolbox.

Target B3 – By 2035, stakeholders generate data on the production of chemicals, including the use of chemicals in materials and products in addition to data on emissions and releases of chemicals and waste to the environment, making these available and publicly accessible.

Target B4 – By 2035, stakeholders apply appropriate guidelines, best available practices and standardized tools for hazard and risk assessment and chemical and waste management.

Target D1 – By 2030, companies consistently invest in and achieve innovations towards advancing sustainable chemistry and resource efficiency throughout the life cycle of chemicals.

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November 2024

<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/fourth-global-round-table-prtrs>

→ Ms. Shanshan DING, Director, Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs China ([pre-recorded video statement](#)) [PDF](#)

Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers – Protocol on PRTRs

I. Current Status of PRTRs in China

- On Feb 2022, *The Measures for the Administration of Legal Disclosure of Enterprise Environmental Information*, issued by China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment came into effect.
- The Measures required a total of 85,000 facilities (including **key polluting entities and companies that are on the List for Mandatory Cleaner Production Audit**) to publicly disclose pollutant generation, treatment and discharge information, including **emissions of toxic and hazardous substances** annually via online platforms established by each provincial government.

The screenshot displays the official website of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China, featuring the title '企业环境信息依法披露管理办法' (Measures for the Administration of Legal Disclosure of Enterprise Environmental Information) and its effective date of February 8, 2022. The document is structured into chapters, with the visible portion covering the General Provisions (Chapter 1) and the Content and Timing of Disclosure (Chapter 3). Key provisions include the requirement for enterprises to establish information management systems and the specific categories of information to be disclosed, such as basic information, management information, and pollutant production and treatment details.

生态环境部规章

企业环境信息依法披露管理办法

(2021年12月11日生态环境部令第24号公布 自2022年2月8日起施行)

第一章 总则

第一条 为了规范企业环境信息依法披露活动，加强社会监督，根据《中华人民共和国环境保护法》《中华人民共和国清洁生产促进法》《公共企事业单位信息公开规定制定办法》《环境信息依法披露制度改革方案》等相关法律法规和文件，制定本办法。

第二条 本办法适用于企业依法披露环境信息及其监督管理活动。

第三条 生态环境部负责全国环境信息依法披露的组织、指导、监督和管理。

设区的市级以上地方生态环境主管部门负责本行政区域环境信息依法披露的组织实施和监督管理。

第四条 企业是环境信息依法披露

企业应当建立健全环境信息依法管理台账，妥善保存相关原始记录企业披露环境信息所使用的相关要求，优先使用符合国家监测规范的要求。

第三章 披露内容和时限

第十一条 生态环境部负责制定企业环境信息依法披露格式准则（以下简称准则），并根据生态环境管理需要适时进行调整。

企业应当按照准则编制年度环境信息依法披露报告和临时环境信息依法披露报告，并上传至企业环境信息依法披露系统。

第十二条 企业年度环境信息依法披露报告应当包括以下内容：

（一）企业基本信息，包括企业生产和生态环境保护等方面的基础信息；

（二）企业环境管理信息，包括生态环境行政许可、环境保护税、环境污染责任保险、环保信用评级等方面的信息；

（三）污染物产生、治理与排放信息，包括污染防治设施、污染物排放、有毒有害物质排放，工业固体废物和危险废物产生、贮存、流向、利用、处置，自行监测等方面的信息；

（四）碳排放信息，包括排放量、排放设施等方面的信息；

（五）生态环境应急信息，包括突发环境事件应急预案、重污染天气应急响应等方面的信息；

（六）生态环境违法信息；

（七）本年度临时环境信息依法披露情况；

（八）法律法规规定的其他环境信息。

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By October 2024,

- **35 multinationals** have required suppliers to disclose via PRTR platform driven by IPE's Green Supply Chain CITI Evaluation, which quantitatively assess the extent to which companies encourage their suppliers to measure and disclose resource consumption data and PRTR;
- A total of **14,022 PRTR data** have been publicly disclosed.

MARKS & SPENCER

ENVIRONMENT AND CHEMICAL POLICY (ECP)

EXPECTATION FOR M&S SUPPLIERS



"M&S expects all wet processors in China to upload their last calendar year environmental data onto the platform no later than each March...If the facilities PRTR data and carbon data are not published on IPE platform on time, M&S will not approve the annual ECP self-assessment on Origin."

adidas	ANTA	Apple	ARCHROMA	瑞森控股 ARARY HOLDING	BESTSELLER	Carrefour
C&A	CISCO	DANONE	DELL Technologies	DyStar	ESPRIT	FOXCONN
Gap Inc.	H&M Group	INDITEX	INFINITUS 无限极	intel	花王 kao	KONTOOR
LEVI STRAUSS & CO.	LINDEX	LI-NING	LUXSHARE ICT	M&S EST. 1884	new balance	Nike
PRIMARK	PUMA	SAMSUNG	SCHAEFFLER	TARGET	VF	維他奶 Vitasey

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- International instruments linked to PRTR implementation directly: Aarhus Convention, Escazu Agreement, OECD council recommendations and of course the Protocol on PRTRs.
- Protocol on PRTRs defines legally binding international standards on reporting of pollution releases.
- OECD has numerous guidance material to facilitate a harmonised approach on reporting pollutant releases through national PRTR systems.
- Modern PRTRs use the PRTR reporting and data dissemination infrastructure to collect data on resources (water, raw materials consumption), energy consumption and production volume data.

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- Ninth meeting of the Task Force on Access to Information under the Aarhus Convention – Geneva, 7-8 November 2024
→ <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/ninth-meeting-task-force-access-information-under-aarhus-convention>
- **Item 3: Access to environment-related product information (b): development of respective digital product passports and other tools to support reporting on environment, social and governance (ESG) performance and prevent greenwashing**
→ Mr. Steve CAPELL, UN/CEFACT Vice Chair ([video statement](#)) [PDF](#)
→ Statement by Ms. Kamola KHUSNUTDINOVA, UN/CEFACT Secretary [PDF](#)

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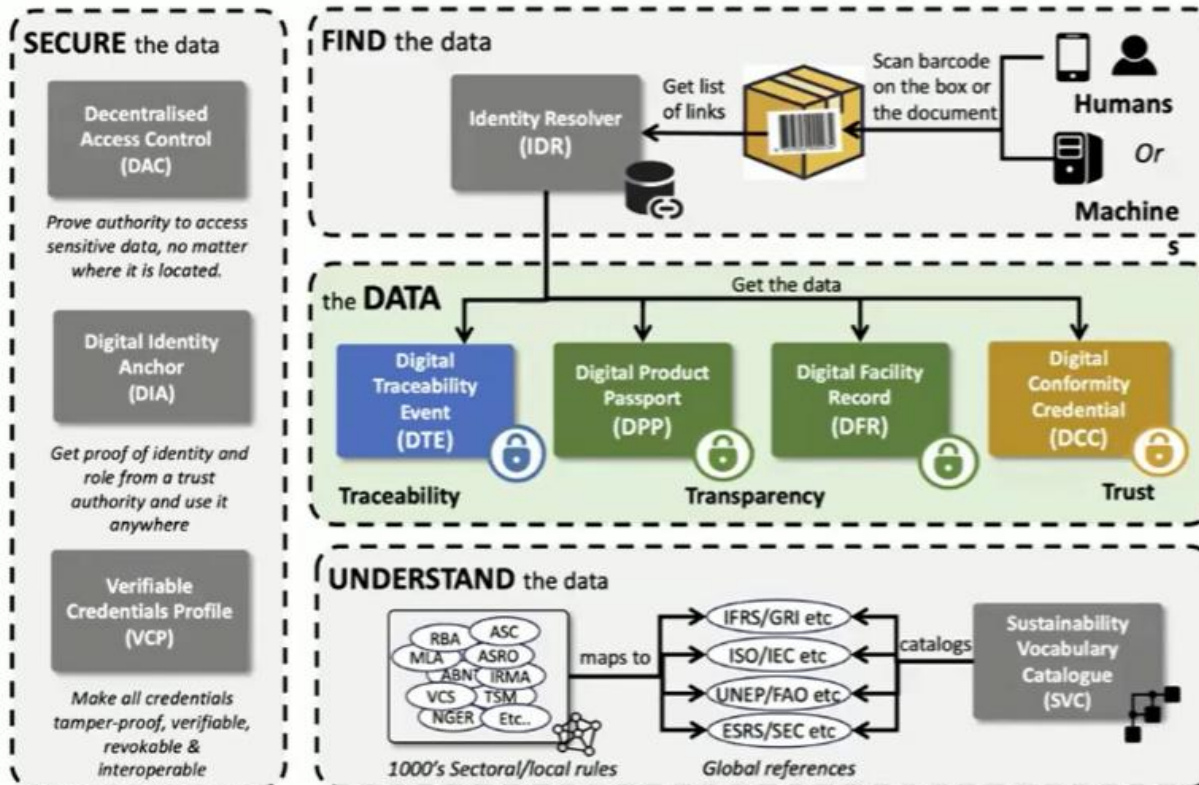
Participate

Seek Justice



Steve Capell

UNTP comprises five key pillars



UN/CEFACT



UNECE

Collect data

Communicate data

Make decisions – fact based

Thank you

More information

Website <https://unece.org/environmental-policy-1/public-participation>

Key guidance material <https://unece.org/environment-policy/public-participation/key-guidance-material>

PRTR.net <https://prtr.unece.org/>

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