Format for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers Implementation Report in accordance with Decision I/5 (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1)

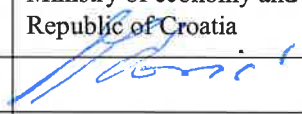
CERTIFICATION SHEET

The following report is submitted on behalf of

Republic of Croatia

[name of the Party or the Signatory] in accordance with decision I/5

ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1

Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report:	Dr.sc. Tomislav Ćorić, Minister Ministry of economy and sustainable development Republic of Croatia
Signature:	
Date:	25. January 2021

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

Party/Signatory	REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
NATIONAL FOCAL POINT	
Full name of the institution:	Ministry of economy and sustainable development
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Designated competent authority responsible for managing the national or regional register (if different):	Ministry of economy and sustainable development, Institute for Environment and Nature
Full name of the institution:	Ministry of economy and sustainable development; Institute for Environment and Nature
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Provide a brief description of the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on which types of public authorities were consulted or contributed to its preparation, how the public was consulted and how the outcome of the public consultation was taken into account and on the material which was used as a basis for preparing the report.

Answer:

The drafting and coordination of this Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers Implementation Report was the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Energy; Institute for Environment and Nature (hereinafter referred to as: MEE). To this end, the MEE worked in cooperation with public authorities responsible for the protection of environmental components. The drafts of the Report were published at the national portal e-Consultation for the purpose of obtaining public opinion as well as opinions of civil society organisations during a period of 30 days (October – December 2020).

For the purpose of drafting the Third National report for the period from 2016 to 2020, new information was included in the Second National Report (2014-2016), which illustrates the development and improvement of the system for the implementation of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

Due to Government Decision, Croatian Environmental Agency (hereinafter referred to as: CEA) was joined with the State Institute for Nature Protection in 2015 (name of new institution was the Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature (hereinafter referred to as: CAEN)). CAEN then became part of the Ministry of Environment and Nature (MEE), as the Institute for Environment and Nature, in 2019. In this report, all three institutions have been mentioned, regarding the year of the information presented.

Environmental Inspection, which was part of MEE, since 2019 became part of the new institution, The State Inspectorate, among others inspections. Nevertheless, their main tasks didn't change.

By Government decision, in 2020 MEE is joining with Ministry of Economy in new Ministry of economy and sustainable development (hereinafter referred to as: Ministry).

Articles 3, 4 and 5

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the general provisions in articles 3 (general provisions), 4 (core elements of a pollutant release

and transfer register system (PRTR)) and 5 (design and structure).

In particular, describe:

(a) With respect to **article 3, paragraph 1**, measures taken to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol, including enforcement measures;

Answer:

A number of Croatian laws and subordinate regulations provide a legal framework for the implementation of the Protocol:

The Act on the Ratification of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (hereinafter referred to as: Protocol) (Official Gazette (OG) – International Treaties (IT) No. 4/08);

The Act on the Ratification of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (hereinafter referred to as: Aarhus Convention) (OG – IT No. 1/07);

Environmental Protection Act (OG No. 80/13, 153/13, 78/15, 12/18, 118/18) (hereinafter referred to as: EPA);

Ordinance on the Environmental Pollution Register (OG No. 35/08; 87/15) (hereinafter referred to as: EPR Ordinance).

In 2015 the EPR Ordinance was adopted the aim of which is to improve the system and the quality of data that is collected through it. Changes in relation to the Ordinance from 2008 are as follows:

- reduced number of forms (from 13 to 9),
- the list of activities was revised (Annex 1), distribution of activities according to sector was introduced
- increase of thresholds for releases into the air (SO_2 was increased from 100 kg/year to 3,000 kg/year, NO_2 from 30 kg/year to 600 kg/year, CO from 30 kg/year to 200 kg/year, and CO_2 from 30,000 kg/year to 450,000 kg/year, NMHOS from 200 kg/year to 100,000 kg/year)
- reduction of thresholds for releases into the air (PM_{10} was reduced from 1,000 kg/year to 200 kg/year)
- new POPs were listed (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and its salts, Perfluorooctanesulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD)
- the deadline for reporting of data was extended from 01 to 31 March
- the deadline for verification was shortened from 15 June to 15 May
- the deadline for development of the national report was shortened from 15 December 1 December
- Annex 5 of the old Ordinance (List of the types of fuel and approximate lower heating values) was repealed and is adopetd by a Decision of the Ministry (Article 8, paragraph 6)

The Ordinance prescribes mandatory content and manner of keeping the Environmental Pollution Register (hereinafter referred to as: EPR), parties obliged to submit data to the Register (hereinafter referred to as: facilities), manner, methodology and deadlines for collecting and submitting data on pollutant release, transfer and depositing into the environment and on waste, data on polluter, operator, facilities (in EPR Ordinance organisational unit of the polluter), deadline and manner of informing the public, manner of verifying and ensuring data quality, time period for keeping data and performing professional activities of register keeping.

The amount and diversity of data arise from the fact that the mentioned data is collected from a wide range of industrial and non-industrial activities, which makes the EPR system an important and comprehensive source of information concerning the types and quantities of pollutants, as well as the types and quantities of generated, collected and treated waste.

Furthermore, the EPR system is an important tool for continuous monitoring of

the trends and progress in reducing environmental pollution, as well as for monitoring compliance with specific international agreements, identifying priorities and assessing the progress achieved through the implementation of the Croatian environmental protection policy and programmes.

The system is indispensable to the public, various state and county authorities, the industry, scientists, non-governmental organisations and other decision-makers as a unique system that ensures insight into the state of the environment and environmental trends, as well as provides background for environmental decision-making. According to data collected in System, the Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (hereinafter referred to as: EPEEF) is collecting those data and calculate fees for industry and other operators for emissions of CO_2 and waste. The EPR system doesn't only provide data for the national needs. Through the establishment and implementation of the EPR system, Croatia's international obligations concerning pollutant release and transfer control are also fulfilled.

EPR in a part of the Information System for Industry and Energy (ISIE) as a part of the Croatian Information System of Environment (hereinafter: CEIS). Pursuant to the EPA and the Regulation on the Environmental Information System (OG No. 68/08; CEIS, hereinafter referred to as: CEIS regulation), Ministry/Institute establishes, coordinates and maintains CEIS. Since 2015, Information System also contains databases and information for Nature (Croatian Nature Information System, CNIE). Here are continuous efforts to integrate and link Information System to the information systems of relevant state administration bodies, public institutions and other stakeholders, where possible.

According to the Regulation on the CEIS part, it is structured into four core groups including: environmental components, environmental pressures, human health and safety impacts and society responses. These groups are classified as thematic areas and sub-areas for which the information system is established as part of the comprehensive CENIS.

Regarding the Law on protection of Nature (OG 80/13, 15/18), part CNIE maintaining and aggregate expert and scientific data on biodiversity and protection of nature, especially data on wild species, external invasive species, habitat types and ecological systems, protected and ecologically significant areas, areas of the ecological network, geodiversity, speleological facilities and other relevant professional and scientific data.

Croatia achieved significant improvement in the monitoring of environmental and nature status. Monitoring falls under the scope of Information System which contains over 70 different databases. If the necessity arises new databases are established and the existing ones are maintained and improved. The data in the Environmental Information System is available to the public through MEE/Institute website: http://www.haop.hr/ and http://iszo.azo.hr/

EPR is also available on ENVI portal, and on Atlas of Environment.

Links:

http://envi-portal.azo.hr/

http://envi.azo.hr/?topic=9

About ENVI portal more information later in this Report.

The following projects managed by CEA and then CAEN were finished with the aim of improving the EPR system:

1. Project: „Improvement of Croatian Environment Pollutant Register and its Integration into Croatian Environmental Information System (CEIS)" (2016 – 2017) – CRO EPR. Partners in the project were: Environment Agency Austria, the Interprofessional Technical Centre for Studies on Air Pollution (CITEPA), France, German Federal Environment Agency and Croatian Agency for Environment and Nature (CAEN) (now part of the Ministry). As part of the project improvement of the EPR system, along with the associated portal (CNPEPR2) and browser were carried out, as well as harmonisation of data with the data related to other fields, primarily climate change, but also air, waste and wastewater. As a results of the project, validation (QA/QC analysis) is improved,

IT tool is generated for it, the new Manual for calculating emissions to air and Tools for calculating emission to air) for EPR were prepared (http://www.haop.hr/hr/alat-za-izracun-emisija-u-zrak-roo/alat-za-izracun-emisija-u-zrak-roo) and numerous educational activities were carried out for then Agency employees, then MEE, competent authorities, inspectional service and EPR obliged persons. Planned visits to industrial installations in Croatia and a study visit to the Environment Agency Austria and Austrian operators were performed. Link: http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-i-registri-oneciscavanja/postrojenja-i-registri-oneciscavanja/projekti-0

2. Project: „Transition Facility: "Chemicals and hazardous substances monitoring improvement and integration of Seveso database into Croatian Environmental Information System (CEIS) as the unique Central Seveso Information System (CRO SEVESO)" (2017 – 2019). The indicated project has ensured harmonisation of data in the field of EPR/Seveso/climate change. More on link: http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-i-registri-oneciscavanja/postrojenja-i-registri-oneciscavanja/projekti-8
3. Bilateral cooperation with the Kingdom of the Netherlands - Government to Government (G2G). The purpose of this project was to provide support to the CEA in the implementation of EU Regulation 166/06 as well as to transfer the experience and knowledge in the field of PRTRs (April 2007 – April 2008).

4. TAIEX Expert Mission (INFRA IND/EXP: 43167) – the transfer of knowledge of German experts in the field of PRTRs, particularly concerning the use of the open source and GIS software (2010, Zagreb).

5. In the framework of the IPA I 2007 TAF project entitled Improving Environmental Reporting in Croatia, a training conducted by Austrian and German experts was conducted in cooperation with the Austrian Federal Environmental Agency as part of the E-PRTR Twinning Mission activities (2011, Zagreb).

http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-registri-oneciscavanja-i-ostali-sektorski-pritisci/postrojenja-i-registri-4

http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-i-registri-oneciscavanja/postrojenja-i-registri-oneciscavanja/projekti-8

(b) With respect to **article 3, paragraph 2**, measures taken to introduce a more extensive or more publicly accessible PRTR than required by the Protocol**;**

Answer:

The data on the release and/or transfer of pollutants and generated, collected and treated waste, resulting from a series of activities, is collected in the EPR system from point sources of pollution in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance. The Croatian system includes significantly more pollutants with, in most cases, lower release and/or transfer thresholds. Furthermore, Annex 1 to the Ordinance includes significantly more industrial and non-industrial activities with lower capacity thresholds compared to Annex I to the Protocol. In accordance with the new EPR Ordinance, as stated, there were changes also in the list of pollutants (Annex II) as well as the list of activities (Annex I).

The public, the industry, scientists, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, decision-makers and all interested parties in EPR have at their disposal a good source of information which can be used for various analyses and as the basis for making decisions concerning environmental issues and protection of human health.

Free indirect access to the above-mentioned data is available both to the professional and other interested public through:

1. Request for Access to Information in accordance with the Act on the Right of Access to Information (OG No. 25/13, 85/15).

2. Annual reports from the EPR database: http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-registri-oneciscavanja-i-ostali-sektorski-pritisci/postrojenja-i-registri-2

Free direct access to the above-mentioned data is available through the Internet using the following browsers:

3. The Environmental Pollution Register Browser (hereinafter referred to as: EPR Browser) activated by CAEN in March 2012.

The EPR Browser contains information about all facilities, thus covering a significantly larger amount of data than required under the Protocol. The EPR Browser is intended for searching the aggregate data by organisational units of all facilities, respecting the provisions of the Data Secrecy Act (OG No. 79/07, 86/12).

4. Croatian National Portal of the Environmental Pollution Register (hereinafter referred to as: CNPEPR), created and made publicly available by CEA in 2012 in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol. This First Portal was during 2018-2019 integrated in second Portal – CNPEPR2 (which was mentioned before – one of the results of the Twinning project CRO EPR (page 4 -1.)).

5. In addition to the mentioned transparency of data on pollutant release and transfer, waste transfers off-site, as well as polluters and their locations, the Portal also includes a GIS browser ensuring up-to-date online insight into the spatial component and the related information, along with the possibility of preparing spatial analyses and reports.

Competent authorities in the counties and the City of Zagreb, which cooperate closely with Ministry by carrying out prescribed tasks of checking the completeness, consistency and credibility of the reported data and subsequent verification of the same, also participate in the transparency of data contained in the EPR through public information on EPR data in the territory of their respective counties.

(c) With respect to **article 3, paragraph 3**, measures taken to require that employees of a facility and members of the public who report a violation by a facility of national laws implementing this Protocol to public authorities are not penalized, persecuted or harassed for their actions in reporting the violation;

Answer:

The assurance that persons exercising their rights shall not be penalized, persecuted or harassed is provided for on the basis of the constitutional principle of legality referred to in Art. 16 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia (OG No. 85/10 – consolidated text) and the right to appeal in Art. 18 of the Croatian Constitution.

Protection of persons who, in good faith, report acts of corruption in the Republic of Croatia is prescribed in: Art. 131 of the Criminal Code (OG No. 125/11); Labour Act (OG No. 93/14); Art. 14 a. of the Civil Servants Act (OG No. 92/05, 142/06, 77/07, 107/07, 27/08, 34/11, 49/11, 150/11, 34/12, 49/12, 37/13, 38/13); Art. 32 of the Act on Civil Servants and Employees in Local and Regional Self-government (OG No. 86/08, 61/11); Art. 25 of the Data Secrecy Act (OG No. 79/07, 86/12); Art. 36 of the Public Internal Financial Control Act (OG No. 141/06); and Art. 57 of the Trade Act (OG No. 87/08, 96/08, 116/08, 114/11, 68/13, 30/14). Art..32. Low on civil servant on regional and local level (OG No. 86/08, 61/11, 04/18, 112/19).

(d) With respect to **article 3, paragraph 5**, whether the PRTR system has been integrated into other reporting mechanisms and, if such integration has been undertaken, into which systems. Did such integration lead to elimination of duplicative reporting? Were any special challenges encountered or overcome in undertaking the integration, and how?

Answer:

We are continuously improving CEISN (Croatian Information System of Environment and Nature) in order to simplify the reporting of data to the facilities

(industry) with remain constant high quality of data.

Special challenges arise during attempts to find a solution which would facilitate reporting for obliged persons in view of the number and the complexity of binding regulations. A challenge is also presented by the attempts to establish links in order to integrate databases which in accordance with environmental protection regulations require retrieval of various types of information and which are often not harmonised in the IT sense.

With regard to internal and external integration of Information System, an independent audit of all existing systems and databases within the MEE, the Croatian Hydrological and Meteorological Service (hereinafter referred to as: CHMS), the State Institute for Nature Protection (hereinafter referred to as: SINP), the EPEEF and the MEE was carried out. This was a component of the first phase of implementation and establishment of a web portal for environmental information (hereinafter referred to as: ENVI Portal). The purpose of this portal is to adjust the spatial data to meet the EU standards, the INSPIRE Directive and the Act on the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (OG No. 56/13).* The selected data from the EPR system and other selected Ministry/Institute databases has been georeferenced with the aim of spatial presentation and analysis in the web GIS browser as a component of the ENVI portal.

Through WEB GIS Browser as a component of ENVI Portal spatial and alphanumeric visibility, together with data analysis of chosen data sets EPR and other databases, is ensured. Data are also available through services with WMS and WFS services which are described by metadata.

Envi portal, together with the GIS Browser, could be found on link:

http://envi-portal.azo.hr/

Since 2012, then CEA took over from the National Bureau of Statistics role of main holder of waste statistics, which abolished the double reporting of data on waste of taxpayers according to the National Bureau of Statistics and in the ROO system. Annual waste data has been reported since then only in the EPR system which is used for all national waste reporting needs.

The data from the EPR system are directly used by the EPEEF for the purpose of calculating and charging fees to facilities responsible for emissions of CO_2, SO_2 and NO_2, whereas automation and better integration of the same will be ensured in the second phase of upgrading the EPR system through system reporting improvement. Due to the comprehensive nature of the data collected in the EPR system, the same is used to create a more than twenty others reports required under international agreements and EU directives as the basic set or a set of data which is, if required, supplemented with data from other sources, thus preventing duplication in reporting at least to a certain degree.

The new EPR system allows better integration and use of the reported data. It also facilitates data submission, collection and quality assessment, as well as reporting.

Ministry/Institute, is continuously conducting maintenance, upgrading and improving of databases in order to harmonise new legislative changes and new laws, but also for simplifying reporting for operators and from Croatia towards EU and others institutions. This includes easier quality control and verification of data from the competent authorities and more transparent approach to data from public, and, at the same time, good quality of data on environment and nature. Upgrades are necessary not only because of harmonisation with new laws but also because of aspect of security. With continuously monitoring of new technologies and trends, together with upgrading existing ones, high level of security from cyber-attacks is ensured. We have come to the conclusion that through the mentioned CEIS upgrades and improvements, it is, to a certain extent, possible to facilitate the process of submitting data for the obliged persons and the reporting process for the relevant institutions, however, a more significant reduction in reporting can only be achieved through reduction and integration at the level of regulations.

(e) With respect to **article 5, paragraph 1**, how releases and transfers can be searched and identified according to the parameters listed in subparagraphs (a) to (f);

Answer:

The CNPEPR2 allows browsing according to the following criteria: year, county, city/settlement, operator, organisational unit (facility), sector, industrial activity and sub-activity, spatial overview, release and/or transfer of pollutants, aggregate pollutant groups (chlorinated organic substances, greenhouse gases, heavy metals, inorganic substances, other gases, other organic substances and pesticides), environmental components (air, water and/or sea, soil) and waste transfers. It also allows a georeferential cartographic overview of data with the exact location of the organisational unit within the borders of Croatia.

(f) With respect to **article 5, paragraph 4,** provide the Universal Resource Locator (url) or Internet address where the register can be continuously and immediately accessed, or other electronic means with equivalent effect;

Answer:

The EPR system was built in such a way to be publicly available through the main Ministry/ Institute website http://www.azo.hr/Default.aspx http://www.haop.hr/hr/baze-i-portali/registar-oneciscavanja-okolisa-roo and through the direct link http://roo.azo.hr/

http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-i-registri-oneciscavanja/postrojenja-i-registri-oneciscavanja

The data submission and verification cycles are carried out using the online EPR application.

The availability and direct and constant access to information from the register through URL addresses http://roo-preglednik.azo.hr/, have been ensured through Ministry /Institute infrastructure, the register, portal and browser are being stored on the publication server with permanent Internet connection. Direct contact to Portal (CNPEPR2) is on link: http://pproo.azo.hr/hr

(g) With respect to **article 5, paragraphs 5 and 6**, provide information on links from the Party's register to relevant existing, publicly accessible databases on subject matters related to environmental protection, if any, and a link to PRTRs of other Parties.

Answer:

The EPR system is created within CEIS which contains a series of mutually linked databases which are sources of environmental information, such as information regarding the state and loads of particular environmental components, spatial features and other data and information important for monitoring the state of the environment at the national level. Through CEIS, the databases are linked at the national level.

The EPR system includes mechanisms, filters and predefined reports for a search through the facilities subject to other international requirements in addition to those prescribed under the Protocol and the E-PRTR Regulation. Using those mechanisms, filters and reports, the users can find the information on whether a particular installation is, for example, subject to the Seveso requirements (defined in accordance with the Regulation on prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, OG No. 144/14 and the Ordinance on registry of installations containing hazardous substances and register of reported major accidents, OG No. 139/14) or the IPPC requirements (according to IED), i.e. an installation holding an environmental (IPPC) permit (in accordance with the Regulation on the environmental permit, OG No. 08/14 and the Ordinance on the register of use permits establishing integrated environmental requirements and of decisions on integrated environmental requirements for existing installations, OG No. 113/08; and later Ordinance on Inquest Register on Environmental Permits, OG 51/16. Furthermore, one of the filters used in the EPR system is also the ETS filter which allows browsing and a more detailed overview of the obliged persons participating in the greenhouse gas emissions trading system. Besides the indicated, there also exists the filter for the so-called LCP obliged persons which allows browsing and an overview of the data submitted by obliged persons for which reports are submitted in accordance with the LCP Directive, i.e. the same is included in reporting according to the new E-PRTR XML scheme which was prepared for the 2016 reporting year. Improvement of the indicated mechanisms, filters and searches will be ensured through projects listed under answers related to Articles 3, 4 and 5 (items 4 and 5). Further to that, new joint XML for EPRTR&LCP has been prepared, and first reporting on EPRTR&LCP was successfully done in March 2020.

Ministry/Institute reports in accordance with the requirements of the European Environment Information and Observation Network (hereinafter referred to as: EIONET) through online services such as ReportNet, an information infrastructure ensuring support and improvement of data and information flows based on a series of mutually linked tools and processes created on the basis of active Internet use. https://rod.eionet.europa.eu/

ReportNet also includes a central data repository (CDR). CDRs are Internet services for the submission of data and reports organised in accordance with relevant reporting obligations or agreements, while the data from the EPR database is used for a number of reports. Some of them are reports related to: CLRTAP, IED (IPPC, LCP), ICPDR, Stockholm Convention, POPs reports, Waste Statistics, Basel Convention, etc.

Data from EPR for E-PRTR (ROD, in xml. file format), were delivered in accordance with Croatia's obligations for the first time in March 2016 (with resubmission in May 2016 following the invitation to MS by EC), since Croatia becomes EU member in 2013. A total of 120 locations were reported. Further to first reporting, Croatia continuously conducting yearly reporting to ROD, EIONET, together with additional reports which are held in terms defined by EEA. This work also includes correspondence and answers to questions of the experts teams of EEA, which conducting quality control and validation of sets of data from MS, including Croatia. In last report in 2020 (first joint EPRTR&LCP report), total of 124 (124 E-PRTR, 22 of which are also LCP) location (facilities) has been reported. Along the set submitted for E-PRTR or E-PRTR&LCP, other reports (data sets) by Croatia according to thematic areas (including those for which data from the EPR system is used) were submitted to ROD in accordance with the reporting obligations. Furthermore, the CNPEPR and further CNPEPR2 has become a member of the; https://prtr.unece.org/PRTR-around-

the-globe while MEE/Institute website provides information on useful websites and national PRTR registers of UN member states that have signed the Protocol. http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-i-registri-oneciscavanja/postrojenja-i-registri-oneciscavanja/izvjesca

Article 7

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement article 7 (reporting requirements).

Describe or identify as appropriate:

(a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, whether the reporting requirements of paragraph 1 (a) are required by the national system, or whether those of paragraph 1 (b) are required by the national system;

Answer:

Delivery of data into the EPR system is defined in Chapter III: Delivery of Data, Articles 7–20 of the Ordinance. Chapter III prescribes the requirements for submitting data, the manner in which the data is collected and delivered. It also prescribes the data reporting forms and includes descriptions of forms classified as either general forms or forms for specific thematic areas, which are provided in the Annexes to the Ordinance.

(b) With respect to **paragraphs 1, 2 and 5**, whether it is the owner of each individual facility that is required to fulfil the reporting requirements or whether it is the operator;

Answer:

Art. 4 of the Ordinance (OG No. 87/15) defines the party obliged to submit data as "the company's operator and responsible person of the organisational unit within the company that performs the activity referred to in Annex 1 of the Ordinance resulting in a release and/or transfer of pollutants into the environment referred to in Annex 2 of this Ordinance and/or any other waste-generating or waste management activity".

(c) With respect to **paragraph 1 and annex I**, any difference between the list of activities for which reporting is required under the Protocol, or their associated thresholds, and the list of activities and associated thresholds for which reporting is required under the national PRTR system;

Answer:

The national EPR data collection system includes significantly more activities than listed under the Protocol, as provided in Annex 1: List of Activities to the Ordinance. However, it also allows selection of activities from Annex I: Activities to the Protocol. We can therefore say that the data collection process has been adjusted to the requirements prescribed under the Protocol at the level of regulations and implementation of the same.

If we compare the lists of activities provided in Annex 1 to the Ordinance and Annex I to the Protocol, it is evident that the former contains several hundred activities and is more extensive, provides more details and prescribes lower capacity thresholds, while it does not include the number of employees as a threshold variable. It therefore provides more complete information about the facilities and the activities causing emissions into the environment, as well as a greater amount of collected data. Croatia records a large share of lower production capacity. Consequently, collecting greater amounts of data is of national interest. This is also significant for a better overview of data on the environmental load in Croatia and preparation of a great number of reports based on the data from the EPR system, as well as reports on the state of the Croatian environment. Therefore, when reporting data, the facilities select activities according to both criteria.

Through amendments to the Ordinance changes were made only to some

activities, while the list of activities is still longer and more detailed than the one under Annex I of the Protocol.

(d) With respect to **paragraph 1 and annex II**, any difference between the list of pollutants for which reporting is required under the Protocol, or their associated thresholds, and the list of pollutants and associated thresholds for which reporting is required under the national PRTR system;

Answer:

Since pursuant to the general provisions of Art. 3, paragraph 2 of the Protocol, the Parties may establish more comprehensive national registers than prescribed under the Protocol the EPR system, pursuant to the national legislation, includes a greater number of pollutants and for most of them lists significantly lower, i.e. stricter, release and/or transfer thresholds compared to those prescribed under the Protocol.

Pursuant to Annex 2 to the Ordinance: List of Pollutants, the EPR contains information concerning the release and/or transfer for 128 pollutants, while the Protocol, pursuant to Annex II, requires from the Parties to provide information concerning the release and/or transfer for 86 pollutants. Croatia thus provides more detailed and complete information concerning the environmental load, while also fulfilling the requirements prescribed under the Protocol.

The data on the release and/or transfer of pollutants in waste water are submitted to the EPR system under the same conditions, i.e. the thresholds are the same for both release and transfer. The release and/or transfer thresholds prescribed for 25 waste water pollutants for which reporting in the EPR system is required are lower than the thresholds prescribed under the Protocol.

Croatia also prescribes significantly lower release thresholds for 39 air pollutants, which makes the data reporting requirements prescribed under the Ordinance stricter compared to the Protocol. Croatia prescribes a lower release threshold, compared to the threshold prescribed under the Protocol, for one soil pollutant for which reporting to the EPR system is required as well.

Table 1 of this Report contains a comparative table of pollutant release thresholds for those pollutants for which there is a difference between the national system and the Protocol (Ordinance, Annex 2: List of Pollutants and Protocol, Annex II: Pollutants).

After the entry into force of the new EPR Ordinance (OG No. 87/15) the differences in thresholds for certain pollutants have been reduced. More about differences can be found at the end of this report.

(e) With respect to **paragraph 3 and annex II**, whether for any particular pollutant or pollutants listed in annex II of the Protocol, the Party applies a type of threshold other than the one referred to in the responses to paragraph (a) above and, if so, why;

Answer:

During the procedure of adopting the Ordinance, it was decided that stricter release thresholds than those prescribed under the Protocol would be prescribed for certain pollutants in view of national strategic goals related to environmental protection and natural resources conservation, as well as for the purpose of ensuring a more comprehensive and detailed overview of environmental pressures. Stricter rules have thus been applied to 39 air pollutants, 25 water pollutants and 1 soil pollutant, whereby the amount of available data on pollutant release and/or transfer was increased.

(f) With respect to **paragraph 4**, the competent authority designated to collect the information on releases of pollutants from diffuse sources specified in paragraphs 7 and 8;

Answer:

The authority responsible (hereinafter referred to as: CA) for the collection of data on the release of pollutants from diffuse sources referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 has not been defined for all releases, as explained in more detail under Answer (h).

(g) With respect to **paragraphs 5 and 6**, any differences between the scope of information to be provided by owners or operators under the Protocol and the information required under the national PRTR system, and whether the national system is based on pollutant-specific (paragraph 5 (d) (i)) or waste-specific (paragraph 5 (d) (ii)) reporting of transfers.

Waste is reporting on the level of location regarding Waste code-list (O.G. 90/15) which is harmonised with European List of Waste.

Answer:

With regard to Article 7, paragraph 5(e) *„the amount of each pollutant in wastewater required to be reported pursuant to paragraph 2 transferred off-site in the reporting year",* in accordance with the Ordinance (OG No. 35/08) the relevant data in the part concerning wastewater, to be precise whether it was release or transfer, was collected in the EPR system indirectly, i.e. through a selected receiving area. The EPR does not provide separate data for release and transfer, as such. Pursuant to the provisions of the new EPR Ordinance (OG No. 87/15) data from 2017 reporting year was based on the reporting of specific pollutant with direct information on whether we are dealing with direct release or transfer to be further processed.

Waste is reported at the level of location with respective waste code in accordance with the Ordinance on the waste catalogue (OG No. 90/15). Data on waste in EPR database are very detailed and it is using for many reports towards EC and UNECE.

(h) With respect to **paragraphs 4 and 7**, where diffuse sources have been included in the register, which diffuse sources have been included and how these can be searched and identified by users, in an adequate spatial disaggregation; or where they have not been included, provide information on measures to initiate reporting on diffuse sources;

Answer:

The Ordinance does not prescribe reporting requirements for diffuse emissions, so that the EPR system does not contain that type of data. It has, however, been proposed that the Ordinance be amended to allow the establishment of a system for monitoring emissions from diffuse sources in accordance with the national possibilities and priorities.

Within the framework of the Transition Facility program, the CEA has submitted a previously mentioned project entitled "Improvement of the Croatian Environmental Pollution Register (EPR) and its integration into the Croatian Environmental Information System (CEIS)". The mentioned project envisages a number of activities the purpose of which is the planning and adoption of guidelines for establishing a national system for monitoring emissions from diffuse sources and integration with other CEA databases containing information concerning such emissions. The project is currently in the process of being approved by the European Commission, and the CEA is currently in the process of integrating with other Croatian institutions that possess information concerning diffuse water emissions, more precisely the information concerning the release of pollutants from diffuse sources in water according to spatial disaggregation and information concerning the methodology used to obtain such data.

Some of the diffuse air emissions are, however, at the national level included in two national reports prepared by Ministry/institute:

1. A National Inventory Report is prepared pursuant to the provisions of the Regulation (EU) br. 389/2013 on the Union Registry of Emissions Trading, the Low on protection of the Air (OG 130/11, 47/14, 61/17), Regulation on greenhouse gas monitoring, policy and measures for their reduction in the Republic of Croatia (OG No. 87/12, 5/17). Ordinance on using the Union Registry of Emissions Trading (OG 26/15). It contains information on six greenhouse gases (CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, PFCs and SF_6) and indirect greenhouse gases (CO, NOx, NMVOC and SO_2) from six various sectors (energy, industrial processes, solvents and other products, agriculture, land use, changes in land use and forestry, waste management).
2. The Institute also prepares a pollutant emission forecast and the Inventory of Air

Pollutant Emissions in the Republic of Croatia pursuant to the Regulation on emission quotas for certain pollutants in the Republic of Croatia (OG No. 108/13) with the aim of fulfilling the requirements prescribed under the LRTAP Convention.

Furthermore, on the basis of the report prepared by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics concerning fuel consumption in the transportation sector, it is possible to calculate the emissions from transport as one of the sectors causing diffuse emissions into the environment. More information is available at the following link:

http://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/publication/2011/SI-1438.pdf

Additional information concerning energy consumption (coal and coke, wood and biomass, liquid fuels, gas fuels, water power, electric power, renewable sources) by sector (industry, transport, agriculture, households) is available in the publication entitled Energy in Croatia (from 2013- 2018), Annual Energy Report of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Croatia.

More on links:

http://www.eihp.hr/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Energija2013.pdf

https://www.mingo.hr/public/EuHR2014_V2.pdf

http://www.eihp.hr/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Energija2015.pdf

http://www.eihp.hr/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/EUH2016.pdf

http://www.eihp.hr/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Energija2017_final.pdf

http://www.eihp.hr/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Energija2018.pdf

Links to reports published at the Ministry/Institute website:

http://www.azo.hr/Default.aspx?sec=652

http://www.azo.hr/Izvjesca26

http://www.azo.hr/EmisijaOneciscujucihTvari

Project for the development of an environmental pollution register with geographical distribution in the EMEP network of high resolution ("Building of registry of emissions of pollutants with geographical distribution in the EMEP network of high resolution" was finished in 2018). The legal basis for the implementation of this project was contained in the Air Protection Act (OG No. 130/11, 78/15, 47/14) and the Plan for the protection of air, ozone layer and climate change mitigation in the Republic of Croatia for the 2013 – 2017 period (OG No. 139/13). With this project following goals were achieved:

1. Registry for emissions for small and diffuse sources and others (existing) stationary and non-stationary sources for territory of Republic of Croatia, according to zones and agglomerations (Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Osijek) and separately for town Slavonski Brod.

2. producing of geographical distribution concentrations of pollutants in u EMEP network with resolution of 0,1x0,1° long-lat. (approximately 10x10 km) for the whole territory of RC, and for agglomerations on geographical scale of 0,5 km x 0,5 km

3. Production of professional and technical requirements for the adoption of measures and plans to reduce the impact of pollution depending on emissions, atmospheric conditions and chemical properties

4. Spatial distribution enables the modelling of air pollution and thereby obtaining a complete picture of population exposure, ecosystem load and Natura2000 threat.

(i) With respect to **paragraph 8**, the types of methodology used to derive the information on diffuse sources.

Answer:

Pollutant emissions included in the Inventory of Air Pollutant Emissions in the

Republic of Croatia are calculated using the standard methods and procedures prescribed under the EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook: Technical Guidance to Prepare National Emission Inventories No. 12/2013 (2013).

The methodology used to calculate the emissions for the purpose of preparing the National Inventory Report are based on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and the Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The methodology used to calculate fuel consumption in transport by different energy sources and consumption sectors is defined under the Energy Balance Methodology prescribed under the Ordinance on Energy Balance (OG No. 33/03).

Croatian Waters carry out an assessment of water burdening from scattered sources of pollution for the purpose of developing River Basin Management Plans. As sources of data official sources are used such as those of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, as well as data collected from other competent institutions. The methodology for assessment of burdening is described in the River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 (http://www.voda.hr/hr/plan-upravljanja-vodnim-podrucjima).

More information concerning the mentioned inventories and relevant legislation is provided under Answer (h), Art. 7.

Article 8

For each reporting cycle since the last national implementation report (or date of entry into force of the Protocol), please indicate:

(a) The reporting year (the calendar year to which the reported information relates);

Answer:

Reports on the data from the EPR are prepared in accordance with the Ordinance on the basis of the data collected using the relevant EPR system application. The data within the EPR system is collected for the previous calendar year. The EPR Data Reports, based on the data relating to the previous calendar year, are published each year by 01 December.

Till now, eight Reports on EPR were published:

2018., 2017., 2016., 2015., 2014., 2013., 2012., 2011., 2010., 2009. i 2008,

Reports for 2007* (air, water, municipal and industrial waste)

*the indicated reports were prepared using the data on particular environmental components and waste. The Ordinance came into force in 2008 and the said year was transitional in terms of the manner of submitting, collecting, processing and reporting data, which was prescribed and organised solely for that particular year. In accordance with the Ordinance (Art. 25), data for 2007 was collected pursuant to the Ordinance on the Environmental Emission Cadastre (OG No. 36/39) on forms prescribed by the Ordinance.

(b) The deadline(s) by which the owners or operators of facilities were required to report to the competent authority;

Answer:

Pursuant to the EPR Ordinance forms for operators (PI-1) are submitted electronically by 31 March of the current year for the previous calendar year to the CA in the territory of which the main office of the operator is located. The forms for organisational units (PI-2 and thematic) are submitted electronically by 31 March of the current year for the previous calendar year to the CA in the territory of which the organisational unit is located.

(c) The date by which the information was required to be publicly accessible on the register, having regard to the requirements of **article 8** (reporting

cycle);

Answer:

The deadline and manner of public information are prescribed under Articles 23 and 24 of the new EPR Ordinance. Ministry Institute / provides public access to the data on reported to the EPR, except to data which is classified in accordance with the regulation on data secrecy, via its website through a browser, annual report and upon request in accordance with the regulations on the public right of access to information.

Each year by 01 December, Ministry/ Institute also prepares an annual report on the data from the EPR relating to the previous calendar year and publishes it at its website (links on page 14). Through the Croatian National Portal of the Environmental Pollution Register public access to information is ensured in line with the protocol. Data is also submitted and resubmitted if necessary to the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (EPRTR) according to deadlines defined by EC.

(d) **Whether the various deadlines for reporting by facilities and for having the information publicly accessible on the register were met in practice; and if they were delayed, the reasons for this**;

Answer:

In practice, the facilities do not always respect the deadlines. Some facilities are late with data submissions. It is prescribed that the responsibility of the relevant CA, in cooperation with the competent inspectorate, is to assess the completeness, consistency and credibility of the reported data. Thus, late submissions by facilities also cause delays in the activities performed by the CAs. The Environmental Protection Inspectorate performs inspectional supervision in order to check whether the facility is meeting commitments in accordance with Article 151, paragraph 5 of the Environmental Protection Act (OG No. 80/13, 78/15).

Following the above, there is also a delay in the meeting of deadlines set under national regulations. However, this does not affect compliance with the Protocol requirements.

(e) **Whether methods of electronic reporting were used to facilitate the incorporation of the information required in the national register, and if such methods were used, the proportion of electronic reporting by facilities and any software applications used to support such reporting.**

Answer:

As explained in Answers to Questions 3, 4 and 5 of this Report, the EPR system was created in such a way as to allow electronic (online) data submission, thus simplifying the data delivery process for the facilities and operators. The CAs (county departments) carry out electronic (online) verification of data directly in the system through their respective user accounts.

It is of particular importance that all competent inspectorates, which perform data-related assessments directly in the system, before and during inspectional supervision and in accordance with their inspection plans, are also assigned user accounts. In that way, implementation of obligations by all stakeholders is made quicker and more transparent, and all process participants (including other institutions and competent inspectorates) at all times use up-to-date data from the EPR in accordance with the assigned authorizations.

The Ordinance prescribed that data could be submitted in an electronic format or on printed forms (Art. 19 (1)). If the facility submitted data on printed formats, the data was entered into the EPR system by the relevant CA in the county (Art. 19 (2)). Article 21, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the new EPR Ordinance (OG No. 87/15), as described in Article 8(b) of this Report, prescribes that he forms are submitted to the CA solely electronically. Only a few examples yearly is done on that way, I one or two rural counties.

On the basis of the information received from the CAs, it can be concluded that the manner in which data is delivered, as defined in Art. 19, par. 2, differs from one county to the other. Other factors such as the population of the county, its demographic structure and the number and type of facilities within the relevant county also influence

the manner in which data is submitted. Developed companies with a large number of organisational units possess greater possibilities for electronic data submission. Small operators, on the other hand, craftsmen in particular, do not have many possibilities for electronic data submission and more often submit the required data on paper, i.e. printed forms.

Furthermore, with regard to software applications, the EPR system was upgraded in 7 phases from 2008 to today. Fifth phase was software for EPEEF for calculating fees. In in 2015 preparation of new database start, but due to problems with vendor (the vendor was changed) new database was finished in 2019. With new database submitting data from operators and facilities, collecting, quality control, validation and reporting of data are much easier and of better quality. There are a lots of data for waste and at the same time, three sheets for air were integrated in one in purpose of simplify the reporting with maintaining the same quantity of data. Each upgrade phase included adding of new software solutions with the aim of facilitating data submission for facilities and use of data for all EPR system participants in accordance with the scope of their activity.

Article 9

Describe the legislative, regulatory and other measures ensuring the collection of data and the keeping of records, and establishing the types of methodologies used in gathering the information on releases and transfers, in accordance with article 9 (data collection and record-keeping).

Answer:

Pursuant to Art. 14 of the EPR Ordinance, the facilities collect the data as frequently as specified under special regulations in order to determine the release and off-site transfer of pollutants and waste. The facilities must use the best available information in the process of collecting data, which may include, for example, pollutant release and off-site transfer monitoring, emission factors, substance balances, estimates and other methods in line with internationally recognised methods, if such are available. The facilities must keep the data used to determine the pollutant release and off-site transfer levels for no less than five years, as well as provide a description of the methods applied during data collection. This is prescribed in Article 14 of the Ordinance.

Article 10

Describe the rules, procedures and mechanisms ensuring the quality of the data contained in the national PRTR and what these revealed about the quality of data reported, having regard to the requirements of article 10 (quality assessment).

Answer:

The provisions of Art. 22 of the new EPR Ordinance (OG No. 87/15) refer to data quality assurance and control. It is prescribed that facilities will be educated (meetings, workshops, seminars, informative materials, etc.) by CAs (regional self-government) and Ministry/Institute. Furthermore, CA Ministry/Institute EN coordinates activities on data quality assurance and control and carries out education of CAs (meetings, workshops, seminars, informative materials, etc.).

For this purpose, in 2008 CEA prepared the Manual for Keeping the Environmental Pollution Register which contains instructions for work with the Environmental Pollution Register and procedures for data quality assurance which is available online.

Additionally, during the project CRO EPR Manual and Tools for calculating emissions to air was prepared (page 4.) Link: http://www.haop.hr/hr/alat-za-izracun-emisija-u-zrak-roo/alat-za-izracun-emisija-u-zrak-roo

Also, during the project experts on EPR in an Institute and CA in counties received knowledge and experience from Austrian and German colleagues on this project. QA/QC and validations of data has been additionally improved with new parameters and intern document "Instructions for QA/QC" was prepared. Data are controlled on more ways: data from same facility are compared by years; data for same groups of activities,

data for same pollutants or group of pollutants, capacities, etc. Then also data from others reporting obligations: air, climate changes, waste (LRTAP, ETS, Waste Statistics, etc.). Specially designed Sheets for QA/QC which are uploaded into database EPR are then sending to CA and then CA communicate with facilities for approval, clarification and eventually corrections of data. In the case of correction data are checked again. An improvement in terms of the quality of the submitted data has been recorded since the establishment of the EPR system in 2008, as a result of joint efforts of the CA, the Inspectorate and Ministry/Institute and cooperation with the facilities. Details such improvements can be found in the annual reports published by Ministry/Institute and later by Institute in accordance with the new EPR Ordinance (OG No. 87/15).
Link:
http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-i-registri-oneciscavanja/postrojenja-i-registri-oneciscavanja/izvjesca

Article 11

Describe the way(s) in which public access to the information contained in the register is facilitated, having regard to the requirements of article 11 (public access to information).

Answer:

The information on EPR is available to the public free of charge through Institute's website, http://www.haop.hr/hr. The website regularly provides up-to-date information concerning the EPR system, legislation, frequently asked questions (FAQ), useful information, links, up-to-date CA address book, and similar. Pursuant to the Ordinance, each year by 01 December MEE/Institute also prepares the EPR Data Report based on the data relating to the previous calendar year and publishes it at its website.

The last report (data for 2018) was prepared in 2019 and is available at: http://www.haop.hr/sites/default/files/uploads/dokumenti/022_reg_oneciscivaca/Izvjesca/Izvje%C5%A1%C4%87e%20ROO_2018_final.pdf

Other reports, national and those towards EC and UNECE, are available on link: http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-i-registri-oneciscavanja/postrojenja-i-registri-oneciscavanja/izvjesca

The Environmental Pollution Register Browser is available at: http://roo-preglednik.azo.hr/ Browser is now available on few links, including entrance in database EPR.

An increased interest of the public in the above-mentioned topic has been recorded on the basis of the monitoring of the EPR system visiting frequency.

In the period from 01 March 2010 until 03 July 2020, the total average number of visits to EPR per year amounted 51 987, during which 608 905 pages were opened, while the average visit duration was 17:02 minutes. "Bounce rate" was 21.4% which is characterised as "excellent". In the period of 26th October 2013 until 03 July 2020, the total average number of visits to EPR browser was 53 208 visits during which 6 105 pages were opened, while the average visit duration was 1:44 minutes. "Bounce rate" was 52.8% ("roughly average"). In the period from 01 September 2018 until 03 July 2020, the total average number of visits to HNPROO2 per year amounted around 1 739 visits during which 3 462 paged were opened. The average visit duration was 1:14 minutes. "Bounce rate" was 66.78 % ("higher than average "). The states with the most data views in this database are: Croatia (61%), Great Britain (12.6%), United States of America (5.5%), Germany (1.5%), Japan (1.22%), Serbia (0.95%), India and Russia (0.86%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (0.69%) and around 39 other countries throughout the world (source: Google Analytics).

The EPR help desk provides professional and technical assistance to the EPR system users, primarily the CAs and the facilities, but also employees of the cooperating ministries and institutions who have been assigned user accounts for browsing the EPR

data at their own request. Since its establishment, the EPR help desk employees have been providing answers by e-mail or phone to on average 3,000 queries per year.

In the course of 2013 *the Industry help desk* (here and after: IHD) application was developed with the aim of further improvement of cooperation and provision of assistance to facilities, competent authorities and other interested parties. Within the said application certain topics were reinforced with information for the purpose of quicker and more efficient responding to queries. The application does not cover only EPR, but also other databases relevant for sectoral pressures: databases related to the Seveso Directive and IPPC (environmental permits), noise and energy. Most queries concern precisely EPR for which 1,787 queries were received in 2015. During the period from 2015 until May 2020, 1,441 queries for EPR were received. CAs and MEE/Institute also participate in responding to queries through the application. Apart from that, in accordance with the Law on the Right of Access to Information (OG No. 25/13, 85/15) CEA, CAEN and Ministry has an Information Officer who also accepts queries from citizens through the Information Request Forms sent by via e-mail info@azo.hr till 2015; informiranje@haop.hr from 2015 till present and Pristup.Informacijama@mzoe.hr (from 2019 till present) or regular mail to the CAEN and Institute, Ministry's registered address. In 2017 it was 403 IHD answers and 2318 answers from EPR help desk (e-mails and telephones); in 2018 533 IHD; 7163 EPR help desk; in 2019; 157; 3389; in 2020 (till 1st June); 82; 1787.

The Information Centre, located in the heart of Zagreb, has been operational since 2010 till 2015, until the abolition of the CEA. The centre provided environmental protection information to citizens, around 300 per year.

Also, in 2019 CAEN started the project DIVERTERA, which has a main purpose to bring knowledge about environmental topics into kindergartens and schools. Project successfully finished in 2019.

The above-mentioned ways in which the public can access EPR data are based on the Act on the Right of Access to Information (OG No. 25/13, 85/15) which regulates the right to access the information held, managed or controlled by all public authorities and prescribes the principles for the right of access to information, exemptions to the mentioned right, and the procedures for claiming and protecting the mentioned right. The EPA, which contains provisions concerning the right of access to environmental information, environmental information reporting obligations, deadlines for providing information and request refusal, which comply with the provisions under the Aarhus Convention, is also important in this respect.

Article 12

Where any information on the register is kept confidential, give an indication of the types of information that may be withheld and the frequency with which it is withheld, having regard to the requirements of article 12 (confidentiality). Please provide comments on practical experience and challenges encountered with respect to dealing with confidentiality claims, in particular with respect to the requirements set out in paragraph 2.

Answer:

The availability of environmental information is regulated by the EPA. Article 158, Paragraph (4) of the EPA reads: „A public authority which holds environmental information shall not be able to reject a request for information referred to in paragraph 3, subparagraphs 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of this Article if that request is related to releases or other emissions into the environment."

The confidentiality of data is also defined under the Data Secrecy Act (OG No. 79/07; 86/12) and the related subordinate regulations.

The new EPR Ordinance (OG No. 87/15) includes data confidentiality provisions in Article 12 and Chapter V.

The facilities indicate confidential EPR data in Item 7 of Form PI-2 which allows selection of data entered in the forms that the relevant entity considers confidential. In Item 7.2., the confidentiality of the selected data must be corroborated on the basis of

appropriate documentation. In accordance with the applicable regulations and after inspecting the provided documents, the relevant CA approves the Data Confidentiality Request.

So far, less than 1% of the facilities have submitted a Data Confidentiality Request (in 2015 it amounted to 0.15%; in 2019 there was no such requests), mainly state-owned companies and institutions and a small number of private companies. Data Confidentiality Requests submitted in previous years by state-owned companies and institutions mainly refer to data concerning company organization, number of employees and geographical location, while private companies request confidentiality concerning production capacities and technologies used (trade secret).

The EPR system defines various user levels for browsing the data pursuant to Article 10 of the Ordinance, so that the data marked as confidential is available only to CA employees responsible for EPR-related activities, the Environmental Protection Inspectorate (The State Inspectorate) and MEE/Institute employees responsible for EPR-related activities.

Article 13

Describe the opportunities for public participation in the development of the national PRTR system, in accordance with article 13 (public participation in the development of national pollutant release and transfer registers), and any relevant experience with public participation in the development of the system.

Answer:

The general legal framework for public participation is defined under the Code of Practice on Consultation with the Interested Public in Procedures of Adopting new Laws, other Regulations and Acts (OG No. 140/09) which includes the Code Implementation Guidelines. Furthermore, the EPA includes provisions concerning the participation of the general as well as interested public in decision making concerning the operations and activities related to environmental protection issues which are in accordance with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention.

Pursuant to the above-mentioned regulations, draft versions of the Ordinances (OG No. 35/08, 87/15) were made publicly available at the website of then the Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection in the part relating to public consultation in the duration of a month during which the public had an opportunity to post comments and complaints, as well as participate in a public discussion.

Article 14

Describe the review procedure established by law to which all individuals have access if they consider that their request for information has been ignored, wrongfully refused or otherwise not dealt with in accordance with the provisions of article 14 (access to justice), and any use made of it.

Answer:

Pursuant to Articles 25, 26 and 27 of the Act on the Right of Access to Information (OG No. 25/13 and 25/15):

Article 25

(1) An appeal against the public authority decision may be filed with the Commissioner within 15 days from the date of delivery of the relevant decision.

(2) An appeal may also be filed if the public authority fails to reach a decision concerning the party's request within the prescribed deadline.

(3) The Commissioner shall reach a decision concerning the appeal and deliver it to the party, through a first-instance authority, within 30 days from the proper submission of the appeal.

(4) Public authorities shall allow the Commissioner to inspect the information constituting the subject-matter of the appeal in the procedure for handling appeals against a decision on withholding information defined in Article 15, paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Act. With respect to information from Article 15, paragraph 2, item 1 of this Act, the Commissioner shall request an opinion of the Office of the National Security

Council in accordance with the act governing data confidentiality.

(5) Where the Commissioner is required, according to the procedure for handling appeals, to assess the accuracy of the proportionality and public interest tests or perform the same, he/she shall reach a decision concerning the appeal and deliver it to the party, through a first-instance authority, within 60 days from the proper submission of the appeal.

(6) If the Commissioner requests an opinion of the Office of the National Security Council regarding information from Article 15, paragraph 2, item 1 of this Act, he/she shall reach a decision concerning the appeal and deliver it, through a first-instance authority, within 90 days from the proper submission of the appeal.

(7) When the Commissioner has determined that the Complaint is valid, he shall issue a Decision ordering the public authority to provide the beneficiary with access to the requested information, i.e. to decide on the beneficiary's request and to set an adequate deadline in which it is obliged to act accordingly.

(8) It shall be deemed that the public authority has prevented or restricted access of a beneficiary to information if it does not act in accordance with the Decision of the Commissioner referred to in paragraph 7 of this Article, or does not do so within the deadline set by the Commissioner.

Article 26 – Administrative Dispute

(1) No appeals may be filed against the decision of the Commissioner. However, it is possible to initiate an administrative dispute before the High Administrative Court of the Republic of Croatia. The High Administrative Court of the Republic of Croatia shall reach a decision concerning the complaint within 90 days. If access to information was allowed under the challenged decision, such a complaint shall postpone the enforcement of the decision.

(2) An administrative dispute against the decision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be initiated by the public authority that reached the relevant first-instance decision as well.

(3) In the complaint handling procedure, public authorities shall allow insight into information referred to in Article 15, paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Act, constituting the subject matter of the dispute, to the High Administrative Court of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 27

(1) Every beneficiary has the right to re-use information for commercial or non-commercial purposes, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) For the purpose of re-using the information, the public authority is not obliged to develop information or adapt or separate parts of information if this represents a disproportionate consumption of time or funds, nor can the public authority be requested to continue to update, upgrade and archive information for the purpose of re-use.

(3) For all matters not specifically regulated by this chapter, the other provisions of this Act shall apply appropriately.

Article 15

Describe how the Party has promoted public awareness of its PRTR and provide detail, in accordance with article 15 (capacity-building), on:

(a) Efforts to provide adequate capacity-building for and guidance to public authorities and bodies to assist them in carrying out their duties under the Protocol;

Answer:

Immediately upon publication of the Ordinance in 2008, the EPR Section, continuously providing all necessary information and content related to the national register to the professional and interested public, was created on CEA's website. Website is regularly updated since then.

Link:

http://www.haop.hr/hr/tematska-podrucja/otpad-i-registri-oneciscavanja/postrojenja-i-

registri-oneciscavanja/sustav

In accordance with Art. 21 of the Ordinance, CEA also prepared the EPR Manual published as part of the mentioned section. As one of the results of the CRO EPR project, Manual and Tools for calculation of emissions to air was also done (see page 4). Link: http://www.haop.hr/hr/alat-za-izracun-emisija-u-zrak-roo/alat-za-izracun-emisija-u-zrak-roo

All enquiries, comments and suggestions by public institutions, competent authorities and the public collected through the EPR help desk or in any other way (by phone, through the Industry helpdesk, at workshops, etc.) are processed and stored. Ministry/Institute publishes and responds to them through its help desk and website. Thus, additional continuous support and coordination related to data submission and quality improvement is provided.

Within the scope of their abilities and additionally through visits organised within the framework of specific projects, Institute employees regularly visit installations where they are introduced to the applied technologies as well as establish contacts with the industry.

(b) Assistance and guidance to the public in accessing the national register and in understanding the use of the information contained in it.

Answer:

All information related to the EPR is available to the public through the EPR Section of MEE's website. The website contains regularly updated information concerning the EPR system, legislation, frequently asked questions (FAQ), useful information, links, up-to-date CA address book, and similar. Pursuant to the new EPR Ordinance, each year by 01 December, the EPR Data Report is published which contains data relating to the previous calendar year.

After the public launch of the CNPEPR, which was covered by the media, The Institute also regularly updates the available information about the portal at its website.

More information concerning public access to the EPR system, the EPR Browser and the CNPEPR is provided under Answers 4, 6 and 10 of this Report (Art. 3, 4, 5 and 11).

Article 16

Describe how the Party has cooperated and assisted other Parties and encouraged cooperation among relevant international organizations, as appropriate, in particular:

(a) In international actions in support of the objectives of this Protocol, in accordance with **paragraph 1 (a)**;

(b) On the basis of mutual agreements between the Parties concerned, in implementing national systems in pursuance of this Protocol, in accordance with **paragraph 1 (b)**;

(c) In sharing information under this Protocol on releases and transfers within border areas, in accordance with **paragraph 1 (c)**;

(d) In sharing information under this Protocol concerning transfers among Parties, in accordance with **paragraph 1 (d)**;

(e) Through the provision of technical assistance to Parties that are developing countries and Parties with economies in transition in matters relating to this Protocol, in accordance with **paragraph 2 (c)**.

Answers (a), (b), (c), (d):

Croatia regularly cooperates with other Parties to the Protocol and EU Member States at meetings, workshops and through personal contacts. The establishment of the CNPEPR was communicated to the PRTR Secretary, European Environment Agency

and other regional partners. International projects are described on page 3 of this Report. Participation at workshops, conferences and working meetings:

Answer (e):

The former CEA hosted a delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina for the purpose of exchanging information about the CEIS and discussing future cooperation and provision of technical assistance in creating a PRTR database and portal for Bosnia and Herzegovina (Zagreb, 20 June 2013). Also, MEE in 2016 hosted delegation from Kosovo in purpose of sharing experiences on many environment topics, especially regarding waste and PRTR. Among others, EPR database was presented.

Provide any further comments relevant to the Party's implementation, or in the case of Signatories, preparation for implementation, of the Protocol. Parties and Signatories are invited to identify any challenges or obstacles encountered in setting up, gathering data for and filling in the register.

Answer:

In the process of PRTR implementation, the most demanding task was the establishment of the EPR system and coordination of EPR-related activities of all involved entities and quality public participation. Data quality assurance and control procedures are considered priorities in the EPR system coordination and management process. Further organisation of workshops, coordination meetings and provision of professional assistance (e.g. through the EPR help desk) are important for ensuring quality system management and transparency.

The persons obliged to submit data, operators and facilities are responsible for the quantity and quality of data itself. The CAs and the competent inspectorates are, on the other hand, responsible for the assessment of completeness, consistency and credibility of the submitted data. In this respect, cooperation between the CAs and the facilities is of key importance. Also, the issue here is the lack of human resources not only in CAs themselves, but also in the inspectorates and Ministry/Institute.

Although certain improvements have been made in terms of comparability and harmonisation of the data submitted by different Parties (also owing to the efforts made by the EU, UNECE, OECD, etc.), further continuous improvement is necessary in order to achieve better harmonisation of data at the global level. This can be achieved only through continuous and quality exchange of information between the CAs, all involved institutions, facilities and the public.

We are aware of the fact that this task is extremely difficult due to the differences between the countries and industries. It is necessary to find alternatives, including comparative tables presenting different methods/methodologies used for listing industrial activities/pollutants or, for example, geographical areas. The UN and EU Working and Expert groups can contribute to this process with their expertise.

The exchange of information between the industry and the competent authorities as well as among different competent authorities and process participants is of key importance not only for the purpose of improving process validation but also for the purpose of optimizing the environmental aspect of the industry as a whole.

With the aim of removing all barriers to further successful implementation of the Protocol, we believe that the Parties would benefit from further intensification of the following activities:

- ensuring the flow of information and technical assistance among the Parties;
- promoting bilateral cooperation between the Parties in which the PRTR has been successfully implemented and those in need of assistance;
- supporting PRTR Secretariat in organizing workshops, educational activities and regional meetings with the participation of various experts, including IT specialists. The indicated support in that period was particularly enhanced in view of the new joint reporting related to PRTR and LCP data. In 2020 Croatia successfully reported to EEA (ROD, EIONET) first joint report for EPRTR and LCP data (EPRTR&LCP Report). Also, reports for EU Registry in database EC ROD /EIONET, EEA) were reported (for 2017, 2018, 2019). In those reports

(regarding IED Directive) EPR data (general, administrative and Inspire data) are also reported.

Table 1. A comparative table of pollutant release thresholds that differ between the national PRTR system and the PRTR Protocol (Ordinance, Annex 2, List of Pollutants; PRTR Protocol, Annex II, Pollutants).
The data **in blue** refers to the release thresholds prescribed by the Ordinance. They are stricter than those prescribed under the Protocol (in the case of 39 air pollutants, 25 water pollutants and 1 soil pollutant). If the threshold is not indicated by a number but by **"ND"**, it means that it has not been determined, which makes reporting to the EPR mandatory for any amount of pollutant release, thus making this requirement also stricter than the one prescribed by the Protocol. The thresholds **in black** are the thresholds that are the same in both the EPR system and the Protocol.

No.	CAS No.	Pollutant	Threshold for releases (Column 1)		
			To the Ait (Column 1a) kg/god	To the Water (Column1b) kg/god	To the Soil (Column 1c) kg/god
1	74-82-8	Methane (CH_4)	**10 000**	-	-
2	630-08-0	Carbon-monoxide (CO)	**200**	-	-
3	124-38-9	Carbon-dioxide (CO_2)	**450 000**	-	-
4		Hydro-fluorocarbons (HFC)	100	-	-
5	10024-97-2	Nitrous oxide (N_2O)	10 000	-	-
6	7664-41-7	Ammonia (NH_3)	**1 000**	-	-
7		Non-methane volatile organic compound (NMVOC)	100 000	-	-
8		Nitrogen oxides expressed as nitrogen dioxide (NOx/NO_2)	**600**	-	-
9		Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)	**10**	-	-
10	2551-62-4	Sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6)	**5**	-	-
11		Sulphur oxides expressed as sulphur dioxides (SOx/SO_2)	**3 000**	-	-

No.	CAS	Pollutant	Threshold for releases (Column 1)		
12		Total nitrogen	-	NO*	
13		Total phosphorous	-	NO*	
14		Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs)	1	-	-
15		Chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs)	1	-	-
16		Halons	1	-	-
17	7440-38-2	Arsenic and compounds (as As)	2	NO*	5
18	7440-43-9	Cadmium and compounds (as Cd)	1	NO*	5
19	7440-47-3	Chromium and compounds (as Cr)	10	NO*	50
20	7440-50-8	Copper and compounds (as Cu)	10	NO*	50
21	7439-97-6	Mercury and compounds (as Hg)	1	NO*	1
22	7440-02-0	Nickel and compounds (as Ni)	10	NO*	20
23	7439-92-1	Lead and compounds (as Pb)	50	NO*	20
24	7440-66-6	Zink and compounds (as Zn)	50	NO*	100
25	15972-60-8	Alachlor	-	1	1
26	309-00-2	Aldrin	1	1	1
27	1912-24-9	Atrazine	-	1	1
28	57-74-9	Chlordane	1	1	1

No.	CAS	Pollutant	Threshold for releases (Column 1)		
29	143-50-0	Chlordecone	1	1	1
30	470-90-6	Chlorfenvinphos	-	1	1
31	85535-84-8	Chloro-alkanes, C_{10}-C_{13}	-	1	1
32	2921-88-2	Chlorpyrifos	-	1	1
33	50-29-3	DDT	1	1	1
34	107-06-2	1,2-dichloroethane (EDC)	100	10	10
35	75-09-2	Dichloromethane (DCM)	100	10	10
36	60-57-1	Dieldrin	1	1	1
37	330-54-1	Diuron	-	1	1
38	115-29-7	Endosulphan	-	1	1
39	72-20-8	Endrin	1	1	1
40		Halogenated organic compounds (as AOX)	-	NO*	1 000
41	76-44-8	Heptachlor	1	1	1
42	118-74-1	Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	10	1	1
43	87-68-3	Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD)	-	1	1
44	608-73-1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6-hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH)	10	1	1
45	58-89-9	Lindane	1	1	1

No.	CAS	Pollutant	Threshold for releases (Column 1)		
46	2385-85-5	Mirex	1	1	1
47		PCDD +PCDF (polychlorinated dibenzodioxins + polychlorinated dibenzofurans) (as TEQ)	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
48	608-93-5	Pentachlorobenzene	1	1	1
49	87-86-5	Pentachlorophenol (PCP)	1	1	1
50	1336-36-3	Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	0.1	0.1	0.1
51	122-34-9	Simazine	-	1	1
52	127-18-4	Tetrachloroethylene (PER)	200	10	-
53	56-23-5	Tetrachloromethane (TCM)	20	1	-
54	12002-48-1	Trichlorobenzenes (TCB)	2	1	-
55	71-55-6	1,1,1-trichloroethane	10	-	-
56	79-34-5	1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane	5	-	-
57	79-01-6	Trichloroethylene	200	10	-
58	67-66-3	Trichloromethane	50	10	-
59	8001-35-2	Toxaphene	1	1	1
60	75-01-4	Vinyl chloride	100	10	10
61	120-12-7	Anthracene	5	1	1
62	71-43-2	Benzene	100	NO*	200 (kao BTEX)[a]

No.	CAS	Pollutant	Threshold for releases (Column 1)		
63		Brominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE)	-	1	1
64		Nonylphenol and nonylphenol ethoxylates (NP/NPE) and related substances	-	1	1
65	100-41-4	Ethylbenzene	-	200 (kao BTEX)[iii]	200 (kao BTEX)[iii]
66	75-21-8	Ethylene-oxide	**100**	10	10
67	34123-59-6	Isoproturon	-	1	1
68	91-20-3	Naphtalene	**10**	10	10
69		Organotin compounds (as total Sn)	-	NO*	50
70	117-81-7	Di-(2-ethyl-hexyl)-phthalate (DEHP)	**1**	1	1
71	108-95-2	Phenols (as total C)	-	20	20
72		Polycyclic aromatic hadrocarbons (PAU)[iv]	**5**	5	5
73	108-88-3	Toluene	-	NO*	200 (kao BTEX)[iii]
74		Tributyltin and compounds	-	1	1
75		Triphenyl tin and compounds	-	1	1
76		Total organic carbon (TOC) (as total C or COD/3)	-	NO*	-
77	1582-09-8	Trifluralin	-	1	1

No.	CAS	Pollutant	Threshold for releases (Column 1)		
78	1330-20-7	Xylenes	-	NO*	200 (kao BTEX)[a]
79		Chlorides (as total Cl)	-	NO*	2 milijuna
80		Chlorine compounds expressed as hydrochlorides (HCl)	100	-	-
81	1332-21-4	Asbestos	1	1	1
82		Cyanides (as total CN)	-	NO*	50
83		Fluorides (as total F)	-	NO*	2 000
84		Fluorine compounds expressed as hydrofluoride (as HF)	50	-	-
85	74-90-8	Hydrogen cyanide (HCN)	20	-	-
86		Particulate matter (PM_{10})	200	-	-