

Important legal notices



Environment English

EUROPA > European Commission >... > Pollution from industrial installations Contact | Search on EUROPA

Glossary | Site Map | Index | FAQ

Who's who **Policies** Integration Funding Resources **News & Developments**



The European Pollutant Emission Register



What is a Pollutant Emission Register (PER)?

Since 1993, as a follow-up of the **UN conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro** (1992) the OECD has been encouraging national governments to establish PRTRs and providing guidance in their implementation. A PRTR, or *Pollutant Release and Transfer Register* is defined as a national environmental database of harmful releases to air, water, land and waste. The database contains information on releases (emission data) of polluting substances, reported annually by individual facilities. However, it may also contain information on releases from sources other than large industrial establishments.

A PRTR is a comprehensive version of a national emission inventory or Pollutant Emission Register (PER), as referred to in the IPPC Directive (see below). The Parties to the **Aarhus Convention** agreed in 1998 on the establishment of national PRTRs with *publicly accessible* emission data.

What is the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER)?

In July 2000, the European Commission adopted a **Decision on the implementation of a European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER)** according to Article 15 of **Council Directive 96/61/EC** concerning **Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC)**. The general purpose of the IPPC Directive is to reduce pollution by industry and to control emissions from larger facilities.

National governments of all EC Member States are required to maintain inventories of emission data from specified industrial sources and to report emissions from individual facilities to the European Commission. The reported data will be made accessible in a public register (EPER), which is intended to provide environmental information on major industrial activities.

EC Member States will be required to submit their first report in June 2003; the report will cover emissions in 2001. The next report will be delivered in June 2006 and will cover emissions in 2004. The present EPER can be considered as a first step towards the development of a fully integrated pollutant release and transfer register (PRTR) for Europe.

What will the EPER do, and why will it be useful?

The objectives of the EPER are as follows:

- **collection** of comparable emission data from around 20 000 individual polluting industrial sources and activities as specified in the IPPC Directive;
- **storage** of the reported data in a database or register (EPER), which is publicly accessible; the register relates to emissions to air and water for 50 major pollutants;
- **dissemination** of the registered data to the public by written reports and the internet.

Every three years, the European Commission will publish a report on the inventoried emissions and their individual sources. Both government and public will be able to use the EPER as a public register which will provide accessible environmental information on major industrial activities.

As far as the public is concerned, the EPER will be useful because it will improve **awareness** of environmental pollution and enhance

transparency and **comparability**. For the first time, it will be possible for members of the public to compare emissions from individual facilities, industrial sectors, or countries. Governments will use the EPER to monitor progress of achievements by industry in meeting environmental targets in national or international agreements or protocols.

Guidance document for EPER implementation

The EPER guidance documents are available here for download as **PDF** files (approximately 1200K)

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EPER related links



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Feedback

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[E-mail this page](#) | [Glossary](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Index](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Top](#)