



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

### Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

#### Twenty-eighth session

Geneva, 13–17 December 2010

Items 2 and 3 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its 2009 (twenty-seventh) session

#### Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

### Activities of the Bureau

#### Note by the secretariat

## I. Introduction

1. At its twenty-fifth session in 2007, the Executive Body adopted a revised mandate for its Bureau (ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1, annex I) that enabled the latter to decide upon urgent matters, including amending the Convention's adopted workplan. The mandate requires that such changes to the workplan shall be done through a corrigendum to the workplan and that all substantive decisions shall be reported to the Executive Body. The secretariat has prepared this document for reporting purposes as is required under the mandate.

## II. Meetings of the Bureau in 2010

2. At its twenty-seventh session in 2009, the Executive Body elected Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as Chair. The following were elected as Vice-Chairs: Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr. P. Meulepas (Belgium), Ms. V. Galatone (Canada), Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway), Ms. N. Karpova (Russian Federation) and Ms. S. Vidic (Croatia). In addition, a representative of the European Commission was invited to attend Bureau meetings as an observer, to ensure effective coordination with European Community activities on air pollution.

3. To date, the Bureau has held two meetings in 2010: on 15 April and on 3 September. A third meeting has been scheduled for 13 December prior to the opening of the Executive Body's twenty-eighth session.

### **III. Amendments to the 2010 workplan**

4. In accordance with its revised mandate, the Bureau agreed to amend the workplan as follows: to add a new item under section 1.9, Reactive Nitrogen: the fifth meeting of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and a workshop on estimating costs of ammonia, to be held from 25 to 27 October 2010 in Paris.

5. The above amendment was agreed by the Bureau at its meeting on 3 September 2010 and the 2010 list of meetings was updated accordingly. The Executive Body may wish to consider and confirm these changes as appropriate, as required under the mandate of its Bureau.

### **IV. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations**

6. In February 2010, the Clean Air Task Force submitted an application for accreditation to attend meetings of the Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies. The Bureau reviewed the application and in view of the information available decided to recommend to the Executive Body to grant an accreditation to the Clean Air Task Force.

### **V. Coordinating group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**

7. At the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in 2009, Belarus proposed to establish a coordinating group to coordinate joint projects and other efforts towards accession by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to the latest protocols to the Convention, to facilitate discussion of strategic issues relevant to these countries and to enhance the exchange of information and the application of bilateral and multilateral projects results by all interested Parties in the region. The Executive Body agreed with the proposal and welcomed the offer of the Russian Federation to act as a lead country for the coordinating group. It invited the Russian Federation to develop draft terms of reference for the group and to submit them for provisional approval by the Executive Body Bureau at its meeting in April 2010 (ECE/EB.AIR/99, para. 45 (h)).

8. The Bureau reviewed the terms of reference as submitted by the Russian Federation in April 2010. It agreed to recommend to the Executive Body that it adopt a decision on the establishment of the coordinating group as presented in the annex.

## Annex

### **Establishment of a coordinating group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**

*The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,*

*Recognizing* the low level of ratifications of the Convention Protocols, inter alia, the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, by countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the insufficient level of participation by those countries in Convention-related activities,

*Noting* that countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia occupy extensive territories and substantially contribute to the overall atmospheric air pollution of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region,

*Noting also* that a large group of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia have a common heritage and are similar in terms of the current level of social and economic development and related environmental problems,

*Considering* the relevant provisions of the Revised Action Plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17) on raising the political profile of Convention activities in the region and encouraging ratification of the above-mentioned protocols,

*Underlining* the separate capacity-building and awareness-raising efforts by subsidiary bodies and programmes of the Convention for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and related positive outcomes of these actions,

*Highlighting* the recently increased participation of certain countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the work within the Convention,

*Considering* the importance of the initiative proposed by Belarus and supported by the Russian Federation on the establishment of a separate body within the Convention using Russian as the main working language to focus on the Convention-related problems of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with larger involvement of the Russian-speaking experts from the region;

1. *Establishes* a Coordinating Group on promotion of actions towards implementation of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, under the leadership of the Russian Federation, to:

(a) Review the current work on implementation of the Convention's separate mechanisms and approaches in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and to assess the lessons learned;

(b) Promote the implementation of the Convention and its mechanism on the air quality management in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia through information exchange and capacity-building;

(c) Assess, jointly with other relevant bodies of the Convention, the costs and benefits of prospective accession to the latest Protocols by countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

- (d) Develop and maintain the information databases on scientific, technical and policy documentation related to the Convention in the Russian language;
  - (e) Develop and implement joint projects aiming at accession of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to the latest protocols of the Convention;
  - (f) Elaborate joint recommendations on strategic issues of the Convention.
2. *Decides* that the lead country will assume the principal responsibility for coordinating the work of this Coordinating Group, for organizing its meetings, for designating its chair(s), for communications with participating experts, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the workplan;
3. *Also decides* that the Coordinating Group will carry out the tasks specified for it in the workplan adopted annually by the Executive Body and will report thereon to the [Working Group on Strategies and Review] [Executive Body];
4. *Accepts* Russian as the main working language of the Coordinating Group, albeit, reserves English as the second working language;
5. *Requests* other subsidiary bodies and programme centres under the Convention that are interested in cooperation to participate actively in the work of the Coordinating Group;
6. *Urges* Parties to the Convention to nominate experts for the Coordinating Group and to inform the secretariat and the lead country of their names as soon as possible.
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