



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

#### Thirty-first session

Geneva, 11–13 December 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-first session

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.  
on Tuesday, 11 December 2012\***

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its thirtieth session.
3. Report on credentials.
4. Matters arising from meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings.

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\* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the Convention website (<http://www.unece.org/env/registration/lrtap.htm>), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit at the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section at the Pregny gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website ([http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN\\_Map.pdf](http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf)). For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, documents may be obtained directly from the web page for the meeting on the ECE Environment Division website (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28315>) or from the public United Nations Official Document System (ODS) website (<http://documents.un.org/>). During the meeting, hard copies of the official documents may also be obtained from the United Nations Office at Geneva Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

5. Review and revision of protocols.
6. Progress in the implementation of the 2012–2013 workplan:
  - (a) Strategies and policies;
  - (b) Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe;
  - (c) Effects of major air pollutants on human health and the environment.
7. Compliance with protocol obligations.
8. Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention.
9. Action plan for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition.
10. Activities of bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and international organizations relevant to the Convention.
11. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention.
12. Election of officers.
13. Other business.
14. Adoption of decisions taken at the thirty-first session.

## **II. Annotations to the provisional agenda**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

*Tentative timing:* Tuesday, 11 December, morning

*Documentation:* Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/112)

The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution is expected to adopt the agenda for its thirty-first session as set out in the present document.

### **2. Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its thirtieth session**

*Tentative timing:* Tuesday, 11 December, morning

*Documentation:* Report of the Executive Body on its thirtieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/111 and ECE/EB.AIR/111/Add.1, forthcoming)

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the report of its thirtieth session.

### **3. Report on credentials**

*Tentative timing:* Tuesday, 11 December, morning

Delegations will be invited to submit their credentials to the secretariat at the latest within 24 hours after the opening of the session. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, where new protocols or amendments to the Convention or to one of its protocols are to be adopted, the credentials shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government

or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. The officers of the session will examine the credentials and report on them to the Executive Body. The Executive Body is expected to adopt the report on credentials.

#### **4. Matters arising from meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings**

*Tentative timing:* Tuesday, 11 December, morning

The secretariat will draw attention to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 and the implications of its outcome for the future work of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). It will also draw attention to the recent meeting of the ECE Executive Committee and will provide information about the review process of the 2005 ECE reform.

#### **5. Review and revision of protocols**

*Tentative timing:* Tuesday, 11 December, morning and afternoon

*Documentation:* Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fiftieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/108, forthcoming); draft decision on amending the text of and annexes II, IV, V and VI to the Protocol on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.3); draft decision on amending annexes III and VII to the Protocol on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.4); draft amended text of the Protocol on Heavy Metals (informal document 1); draft decision on adoption of guidance document on best available techniques for controlling emissions of heavy metals and their compounds from the source categories listed in annex II (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.5); draft decision on adoption of guidance document on control techniques for emissions of sulphur, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOCs, dust (including PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and black carbon) from stationary sources (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.6); draft decision on adoption of guidance document on economic instruments to reduce emissions of regional air pollutants (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.7); draft decision on adoption of guidance document on national nitrogen budgets (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.8); draft decision on adoption of guidance document for preventing and abating ammonia emissions from agricultural sources (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.9)

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will introduce this agenda item by referring to the discussions and decisions of the Working Group at its fiftieth session. The Executive Body is expected to take note of the reports and to consider relevant conclusions and recommendations for the following:

(a) *Protocol on Heavy Metals.* At its twenty-ninth session in December 2011, the Executive Body requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review, in accordance with its revised mandate, to continue discussions on the Protocol on Heavy Metals at its fiftieth session in September 2012, with a view to giving the highest priority to securing agreement on the text of an amended protocol before devoting time to any other substantive issues (ECE/EB.AIR/109, para. 28). The Executive Body further requested the Working Group to consider options for making the Protocol on Heavy Metals more adaptable to future developments by producing a guidance document on best available techniques (BAT) extracted from annex III to the Protocol, and updated as appropriate. Parties to the Protocol on Heavy Metals are expected to consider and adopt the draft amendments to the

Protocol on Heavy Metals and the draft guidance document on BAT, as recommended by the Working Group and contained in documents ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.3, ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.4, informal document 1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.5;

(b) *Guidance documents to the amended Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol)*. At its thirtieth session the Executive Body adopted amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol and its annexes. The amended Protocol makes reference to guidance documents in its article 1, article 3, paragraphs 6 and 8 (b), Article 6, paragraph 1 (g), (f) and article 7, paragraph 3 (d). The Executive Body is expected to adopt these guidance documents as recommended by the Working Group on Strategies and Review and contained in documents ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.6, ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.7, ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.8 and ECE/EB.AIR/2012/L.9;

(c) *Guidance document on the adjustment procedure provided for in decision 2012/3*. In its decision 2012/3, adopted at its thirtieth session, the Executive Body requested the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) to develop provisional guidance, for consideration by the Executive Body at its thirty-first session, related to the application of the adjustment procedures provided for in paragraphs 2 and 3 in the circumstances referred to in paragraph 6 of the decision. The Executive Body is expected to consider the guidance as contained in informal document 2;

(d) *Proposals for adjustment to annex II to the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol*. In accordance with article 13 of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol, Montenegro submitted a proposal for adjustment to annex II to the Protocol, to add to it its name, together with emission levels and emission ceilings. The proposal had been circulated to Parties to the Protocol at least 90 days in advance of the session in accordance with article 13, paragraph 2. In addition, Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol, at their thirtieth session, decided to defer a decision on a proposed adjustment by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at that session until the present session. Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol are expected to consider and agree the proposed adjustments;

(e) *Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs)*. At its twenty-ninth session in December 2011, the Executive Body requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review to defer any work on the Protocol on POPs in 2012, and decided to address the issue further at the meeting of the Executive Body in December 2012, taking into account ongoing activities under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ECE/EB.AIR/109, para. 29). The Executive Body may wish to further discuss this matter, also in connection to the discussion under item 8 on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention.

## 6. Progress in the implementation of the 2012–2013 workplan

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 12 December, morning and afternoon

*Documentation:* 2012–2013 workplan for the implementation of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/109/Add.2); report of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe on its thirty-sixth session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2012/2, forthcoming); report of the Working Group on Effects on its thirty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2012/2, forthcoming); health effects of particulate matter (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/5)

At its twenty-ninth session in December 2011, the Executive Body adopted the 2012–2013 workplan for the implementation of the Convention. It also adopted an Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention by decision 2011/14 (see ECE/EB.AIR/109/Add.1). In accordance with paragraph 3 of the Action Plan, the Executive Body, as part of its work planning, will review the activities under the Convention's subsidiary bodies, task forces and International Cooperative Programmes, and ensure that their work is focused on prioritized issues. The Executive Body is expected to review and assess progress under each item of the workplan not covered in other items of the agenda. It may wish to make amendments with respect to deliverables, timelines, priority or relevance of the outcomes as necessary. It may further wish to provide guidance for the preparation of the 2014–2015 workplan.

**(a) Strategies and policies (item 1 of the workplan)**

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will report on the implementation of relevant issues under item 1 of the workplan. Item 1.5 of the workplan will be considered in further detail under agenda item 9.

**(b) Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (item 2 of the workplan)**

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body will present a summary of the main issues discussed at and the results of the thirty-sixth session of the EMEP Steering Body and highlight conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Executive Body. She will report on progress by the EMEP centres under section 2 of the workplan, focusing on aspects of particular relevance to the Long-term Strategy of the Convention.

**(c) Effects of major air pollutants on human health and the environment (item 3 of the workplan)**

The Chair of the Working Group on Effects will present a summary of the main issues discussed at and the results of the thirty-first session of the Working Group on Effects and highlight conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Executive Body. He will report on progress under item 3 of the workplan.

The Chair will highlight any new insights and the relevant contributions of workplan items to either the development, implementation or assessment of the effectiveness of the Convention's protocols and policies.

## 7. Compliance with protocol obligations

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 12 December, afternoon

*Documentation:* Report of the Implementation Committee on compliance with protocol obligations (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/3); draft recommendations for the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/4)

The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present the Committee's fifteenth report on compliance by individual Parties with their protocol obligations. The Executive Body is expected to consider the Committee's report and recommendations.

In addition, the Chair will present the Committee's progress on its work to improve the compliance mechanism in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy. The Chair will draw attention to proposed amendments to decision 2006/2 on the functioning of the Committee.

Greece, Spain, Estonia, Germany, Italy and Estonia are expected to make presentations with respect to their cases under review as requested by the Executive Body at its twenty-ninth session.

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body will provide a progress report and timetable to the Executive Body, in accordance with paragraph 4 (c) of decision 2011/13, with regard to the requests in paragraphs 4 (a) and (b) of decision 2011/13 concerning reporting of POPs emissions.

At its twenty-eighth session, the Executive Body re-elected two members to the Implementation Committee for a second and third term of two years respectively. At its twenty-ninth session, the Executive Body elected two new members for a term of two years and re-elected five members to the Committee for a second, third or further period of two years. Those elected at the twenty-seventh session have completed their terms of office. One Party, elected for a third term of two years at the twenty-ninth session, informed the secretariat that it will not complete its term of office. The Executive Body is expected to elect three new members to the Committee.

## 8. Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 12 December, afternoon

*Documentation:* Report of the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/2); revised strategy for EMEP for 2010–2019 (ECE/EB.AIR/2009/16 /Rev.1);<sup>1</sup> revised long-term strategy for the effects-oriented activities (ECE/EB.AIR/2009/17/Rev.1)<sup>2</sup>

In its decision 2010/18 the Executive Body adopted a Long-term Strategy for the Convention (see ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1), and requested the Bureau to prepare an action

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<sup>1</sup> The amendments were detailed in the report of the EMEP Steering Body's thirty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2011/2, paras. 36 (a)-(m)). The revised strategy is also available from the web page for the thirty-sixth Steering Body meeting as informal document No. 7 at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30313>.

<sup>2</sup> The amendments are detailed in the report of the Working Group on Effects on its thirtieth session (forthcoming), and the revised document is available as an informal document for the Working Group's thirty-first session from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=24661>.

plan for its implementation. By its decision 2011/14, the Executive Body adopted the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy and also established a time-limited ad hoc group of experts to carry out tasks identified for it in the Action Plan. It requested the ad hoc group of experts to finalize and submit a report for consideration by the Executive Body in 2012. The Executive Body is expected to consider the report of the ad hoc group of experts as contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2012/2.

Following the adoption of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention, the EMEP Steering Body revised accordingly its own draft strategy, which it adopted at its thirty-fifth session. The revised strategy is now fully consistent with the Convention's strategy. Similarly, the Working Group on Effects revised accordingly its draft strategy at its thirtieth session, to make it fully consistent with the Convention's strategy. The Executive Body is expected to consider and approve the revised strategies.

## **9. Action plan for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition**

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 12 December, afternoon

The Chair of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Coordinating Group) will present progress in the work of the Coordinating Group and activities aimed at implementation of the action plan in 2012. Delegations will be invited to provide information on their efforts to implement and ratify the most recent protocols under the Convention and any needs for capacity-building and assistance. The Executive Body is expected to note this information.

## **10. Activities of bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and international organizations relevant to the Convention**

*Tentative timing:* Thursday, 13 December, morning

The secretariat will report on relevant activities of ECE bodies. Representatives of international organizations (e.g., the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization) will be invited to provide information on their activities of particular relevance to the Convention. Representatives of organizations and networks from outside the region are invited to give information on existing and potential areas of collaboration with the Convention. The European Union will be invited to provide additional relevant information, in particular on the review process of its air quality policy. The Executive Body is expected to take note of this information.

## **11. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention**

*Tentative timing:* Thursday, 13 December, morning

*Documentation:* Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/1)

The secretariat will inform the Executive Body about the status of Parties' contributions to the trust funds for financing the implementation of the Convention and the expenditures in 2012. The Executive Body is expected to decide on the detailed use of resources for EMEP in 2013.

## **12. Election of officers**

*Tentative timing:* Thursday, 13 December, morning

At its twenty-eighth session in 2010, the Executive Body adopted its rules of procedure (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/19). In accordance with rule 17 of those rules, it elected a Chair and three Vice-Chairs and, in accordance with rule 21, it elected a Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. In accordance with rule 17, the term of office for a chair or vice-chair is two years, except for the first vice-chairs elected, for whom the first term is three years. At its present session the Executive Body is therefore expected to elect a Chair of the Executive Body and a Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. It is also expected to elect a Chair of the Implementation Committee.

## **13. Other business**

*Tentative timing:* Thursday, 13 December, morning

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this agenda item.

## **14. Adoption of decisions taken at the thirty-first session**

*Tentative timing:* Thursday, 13 December, afternoon

The Executive Body may wish to adopt its decisions taken during the session. The draft report of the session, reflecting the adopted decisions, will be finalized by the secretariat following the session. The report will be presented for adoption at the Executive Body's thirty-second session.

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