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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
(1 June 1999)

Introduction

1. The special session of the Executive Body took place in Geneva on 1 June 1999.
2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Armenia; Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Canada; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Republic of Moldova; Russian Federation; Slovakia; Slovenia; Sweden; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom; United States of America; and the European Community (EC).
3. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA); the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA); the International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy (UNIPEDE); the Oil Companies' European Organization for Environment, Health and Safety (CONCAWE) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN).
4. The meeting was chaired by Mr. J. Thompson (Norway).

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Executive Body adopted the agenda as contained in ECE/EB.AIR/63.

II. PREPARATION OF A DRAFT PROTOCOL ON THE REDUCTION OF NITROGEN OXIDES AND RELATED SUBSTANCES

6. At its twenty-eighth session, the Working Group on Strategies had recommended that the Executive Body should integrate sulphur fully into the protocol on the reduction of nitrogen oxides and related substances (EB.AIR/WG.5/58, para 17 (b)). The delegation of the Russian Federation had reserved its position on this matter.

7. At the present session the delegation of the Russian Federation withdrew its reservation and the Executive Body decided to integrate sulphur fully into the said protocol.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

8. The secretariat informed the Executive Body of the status of ratification of the Protocols on Heavy Metals and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). So far only Canada had ratified them. The information regarding the Protocol on POPs that the Signatories had submitted to the secretariat indicated that the sixteen ratifications necessary for the Protocol to enter into force would not be reached in 1999. Given the ongoing negotiations for a global legally-binding agreement on POPs, the Chairman strongly urged Signatories to accelerate their ratification procedures so that the Protocol could enter into force in 2000.

9. The secretariat confirmed that the seventeenth session of the Executive Body would take place in Gothenburg (Sweden) from 29 November to 3 December 1999, with a ministerial segment for the adoption and signature of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (provisional title) on 30 November - 1 December. The delegation of Sweden, the host country, provided additional information on the event.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

10. The Executive Body adopted for general distribution the report of its special session on 4 June 1999.