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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Working Group on Effects
(Eighteenth session, Geneva, 25-27 August 1999)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 August 1999

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report on the seventeenth session (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/2).
3. Matters arising from the sixteenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/59), from its special session on 31 May 1999 (ECE/EB.AIR/64), and from the twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Working Group on Strategies (EB.AIR/WG.5/56, 58, 60 and 62).

Documents prepared under the auspices or at the request of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for GENERAL circulation should be considered provisional unless APPROVED by the Executive Body.

4. Independent review of the effect-oriented activities
(EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/3).
5. Results and short-term goals of the effect-oriented activities
(EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/4):
 - (a) International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests
(EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/5);
 - (b) ICP on assessment and monitoring of acidification of rivers and lakes (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/6);
 - (c) ICP on effects of air pollution on materials, including historic and cultural monuments (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/7);
 - (d) ICP on effects of air pollution and other stresses on crops and non-wood plants (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/8);
 - (e) ICP on integrated monitoring of air pollution effects on ecosystems
(EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/9);
 - (f) Mapping of critical levels and loads;
 - (g) Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution.
6. Review of scientific and technical knowledge:
 - (a) Trends in impacts of long-range transboundary air pollution
(EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/10);
 - (b) Assessment of the health risk of particulate matter
(EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/11);
 - (c) Summary report on the workshop on critical levels for ozone;
level II (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/12).
7. Future priorities and objectives of the effect-oriented activities
(EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/3).
8. Financing of effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/13).
9. Election of officers.
10. Other business.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group on Effects is expected to adopt the agenda of its eighteenth session.

Item 2: Adoption of the report on the seventeenth session

The Working Group on Effects is expected to adopt the report on its seventeenth session (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/2).

Item 3: Matters arising from the sixteenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, from its special session on 31 May 1999, and from the twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Working Group on Strategies

The secretariat will draw the attention of the Working Group to the relevant discussions held and decisions made by the Executive Body at its sixteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/59) and at its special session on 31 May 1999 (ECE/EB.AIR/64), and by the Working Group on Strategies at its twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions (EB.AIR/WG.5/56, 58, 60 and 62). The secretariat will also inform the Working Group about the present status of the Convention and the activities of the Executive Body's other subsidiary bodies.

Item 4: Independent review of the effect-oriented activities

The Working Group will have before it a note, prepared by its Bureau in collaboration with the secretariat, summarizing the conclusions and recommendations of the independent review of the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/3). The Working Group is expected to consider them and, subsequently, take them into account when discussing the recent results and future priorities and objectives of the effect-oriented activities (item 7).

Item 5: Results and short-term goals of the effect-oriented activities

The Working Group will have before it the annual 1999 Joint report of the International Cooperative Programmes, the Mapping Programme and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution on progress in the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/4). The report will also include a list of future activities to be addressed in response to the Executive Body's priority needs.

(a) ICP on assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its fifteenth meeting held in Vilnius (Lithuania). The Working Group is expected to consider the summary report on the 1998 results of monitoring of forest condition in Europe (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/5), a progress report on the further integrated evaluation of the monitoring data and on plans for the future development of monitoring activities.

(b) ICP on assessment and monitoring of acidification of rivers and lakes: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its fourteenth meeting held in Zakopane (Poland). The Working Group will have before it a summary report on the results of the workshop on biological monitoring methods (Zakopane, October 1998) and on the assessment of the results of intercalibration exercises (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/6). The lead country will also report on progress in the preparation of the programme's twelve-year report and on the further development of the regional lake and river database.

(c) ICP on effects of air pollution on materials, including historic and cultural monuments: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its fifteenth meeting held in Toronto (Canada). The Working Group will have before it a progress report on the development of the new exposure programme and on the creation of a database of environmental data for that programme (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/7). The lead country will also present a report on progress in modelling and mapping areas with increased corrosion risk.

(d) ICP on effects of air pollution and other stresses on crops and non-wood plants: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its twelfth meeting held in Beaumaris (United Kingdom), and present the 1999 annual status report on the programme's achievements. The Working Group will have before it a summary report on further progress in level II modelling for crops and natural vegetation (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/8). The lead country will also report on progress in level II mapping and on the identification of characteristics of natural and semi-natural plant communities associated with ozone sensitivity.

(e) ICP on integrated monitoring of air pollution effects on ecosystems: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its seventh meeting held in Wallingford (United Kingdom). The Working Group will have before it a progress report on the development of a scientific strategy for the investigation of heavy metal fluxes (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/9). The lead country will also present the programme's eighth annual report (1999).

(f) Mapping of critical levels and loads: the lead country of the Task Force on Mapping will report on progress in mapping critical levels and loads, including the results of its fifteenth meeting held in Berlin (Germany). The lead country will also present information about the forthcoming workshop on critical limits for heavy metals (Schwerin, Germany, October 1999). The Coordination Center for Effects (CCE) will provide information on the recent results of its mapping activities, including the outcome of the tenth CCE workshop on mapping critical loads and levels, held in Prague (Czech Republic). The Working Group will have before it the CCE Status report 1999, including information on the further analysis of critical loads data and the development of the critical loads/levels methodology.

(g) Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution: the World Health Organization's European Centre for Environment and Health, leading the Task Force, will provide information on the development of its activities, including the results of its second meeting held in Bilthoven (Netherlands), a progress report on the preparation of the preliminary assessment of the health risk of particulate matter, and draft proposals for possible future action concerning persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals.

Item 6: Review of scientific and technical knowledge

(a) Trends in impacts of long-range transboundary air pollution: the Working Group will have before it for consideration and approval a summary of the substantive report on trends in impacts of long-range transboundary air pollution (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/10). The Working Group is also expected to consider a draft of the technical report on trends in impacts of air pollution and an outline of the condensed version of the report (for the general public).

(b) Assessment of the health risk of particulate matter: the Working Group will have before it for consideration and approval a summary of the report on the preliminary assessment of the health risk of particulate matter from long-range transboundary air pollution (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/11). The Working Group is also expected to consider a draft of the technical report on the topic.

(c) Critical levels for ozone; level II: the Working Group will have before it a summary report on the workshop on critical levels for ozone; level II, held in Gerzensee (Switzerland) (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/12). The Working Group may wish to take note of the report.

Item 7: Future priorities and objectives of the effect-oriented activities

The Working Group will have before it a note, prepared by its Bureau in collaboration with the secretariat, with draft proposals for future priorities, updated objectives and a new structure for the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/3). The Working Group is expected to consider these proposals, taking due account of the defined new priorities and proposed restructuring of the Executive Body, the conclusions and recommendations of the independent review of the effect-oriented activities and the proposals presented by individual programmes and Task Forces.

Item 8: Financing of effect-oriented activities

The Working Group will have before it a note, prepared by its Bureau in collaboration with the secretariat, on the financing of effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/13). The Working Group is expected to consider the note, summarizing priority tasks in the effect-oriented activities, reviewing the use of the voluntary contributions in 1998 and indicating plans for 1999/2000.

Item 9: Election of officers

The meeting is expected to elect a chairman and five vice-chairmen. The elected officers constitute the Bureau and will remain in office over the next session.

Item 10: Other business

The Working Group on Effects will have before it for consideration a provisional list of meetings for 1999/2000 compiled by the secretariat on the basis of information provided by the delegations and programmes.