



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/EB.AIR/58  
21 September 1998

Original: ENGLISH

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Sixteenth session, Geneva  
(8-11 December 1998)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTEENTH SESSION**

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 December 1998

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the fifty-third session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the special and fifth sessions of the Committee on Environmental Policy of concern to the Executive Body.
3. Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution (EB.AIR/1998/3).
4. Activities of the Working Group on Strategies (EB.AIR/WG.5/50, 52, 54, and 56).
5. Implementation Committee (EB.AIR/1998/4).
6. Restructuring of the Executive Body (EB.AIR/1998/5).

7. Progress in selected areas of cooperation (EB.AIR/1998/6):
  - (a) Cooperative programme for monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe (EMEP);
  - (b) Effects of major air pollutants on human health and the environment;
  - (c) Technologies for emission control.
8. Work-plan (EB.AIR/1998/7 and 8).
9. Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention.
10. Financial issues (EB.AIR/1998/9).
11. Other business.
12. Election of officers.
13. Adoption of the report of the sixteenth session.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the agenda.

### Item 2: Matters arising from the fifty-third session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the special and fifth sessions of the Committee on Environmental Policy of concern to the Executive Body

The secretariat will draw the attention of the Executive Body to relevant discussions held at the fifty-third session of the Commission (E/ECE/1365) and at the special and fifth sessions of the Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/38 and 63).

### Item 3: Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution

The secretariat will circulate the draft 1998 major review of strategies and policies, including tables of emission levels, based on information received from Parties (EB.AIR/1998/3 and EB.AIR/GE.1/1998/4), updating the 1997 annual review. Parties are invited to comment on the report and to provide, as appropriate, supplementary information.

### Item 4: Activities of the Working Group on Strategies

The Chairman of the Working Group will introduce this agenda item. The reports of the twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions of the Working Group on Strategies (EB.AIR/WG.5/50, 52, 54 and 56) will be before the Executive Body. The Chairman will report on progress in the preparation of a draft protocol on nitrogen oxides and related substances (EB.AIR/WG.5/R.80). At its fifteenth session, the Executive Body requested the Working Group on Strategies to aim at finalizing the protocol in early 1999.

### Item 5: Implementation Committee

At its fifteenth session, the Executive Body established the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/53, para. 50). The Implementation Committee will present its first report (EB.AIR/1998/4), including the results of its first two meetings, which focused on the review of compliance with the reporting requirements in the protocols. As requested by the Executive Body, the Committee will propose a long-term programme for its work (EB.AIR/1998/4, annex). At its fifteenth session, the Executive Body elected nine members to the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/53, para. 50 (f)), four of whom, including the chairperson, for a one-year term. Accordingly, the Executive Body will elect four members to the Committee. Outgoing members may stand for re-election.

### Item 6: Restructuring of the Executive Body

At its fifteenth session, the Executive Body endorsed a note by the Bureau on future priorities (EB.AIR/1997/3) and requested the Bureau to

prepare a proposal for organizing work after the completion of ongoing negotiations (ECE/EB.AIR/53, para. 46). Accordingly, the Bureau has prepared a proposal, containing an organizational set-up for future work (EB.AIR/1998/5). The Executive Body is expected to consider the proposal and decide on the organization of work.

Item 7: Progress in selected areas of cooperation

To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, the secretariat will circulate document EB.AIR/1998/6, containing a summary of the main issues and results achieved within the scope of the Convention. The note is based on the following information:

(a) The results of the twenty-second session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) (EB.AIR/GE.1/1998/2);

(b) The results of the seventeenth session of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/1998/2);

(c) The results of the sixth session of the Working Group on Abatement Techniques (EB.AIR/WG.6/1998/2).

The Executive Body may wish to take note of the reports submitted and of the relevant conclusions and recommendations.

Item 8: Work-plan

The Executive Body will be called upon to agree on a work-plan for the implementation of the Convention. To assist the Executive Body in accomplishing this task, the secretariat will circulate a draft work-plan (EB.AIR/1998/7), taking into account recommendations from subsidiary bodies and results of ongoing activities. Delegations may wish to provide additional information for the 1999 work-plan. The Executive Body will also have before it a note on air pollution and transport prepared by the secretariat (EB.AIR/1998/8). The note is based on the Programme of Joint Action (ECE/RCTE/CONF./3/FINAL) adopted by the UN/ECE Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (Vienna, 12-14 November 1997). It sets out international activities foreseen in the Programme of Joint Action to which the Executive Body may be able to contribute. The Executive Body may wish to consider the note and decide whether it wishes to integrate some of the activities in its work-plan.

Item 9: Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention

The secretariat will report on relevant activities of ECE bodies. Representatives of international organizations will be invited to provide information on their activities relevant to the Convention. The Executive Body may wish to take this information into account in considering the work-plan for 1999.

Item 10: Financial issues

The Executive Body is expected to consider the status of the Convention and take the necessary steps to meet the costs of implementing the work-plan (EB.AIR/1998/9). In particular, the detailed budget for EMEP for 1999 and its provisional budget for 2000 will be adopted, under this agenda item.

Item 11: Other business

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

Item 12: Election of officers

The Executive Body decided at its thirteenth session to enlarge the Bureau to comprise one chairperson and seven vice-chairpersons, including the chairpersons of the four major subsidiary bodies. The chairpersons of the Working Group on Strategies and of the Working Group on Abatement Techniques would be elected by the Executive Body. The Executive Body is expected to elect these officers accordingly. They constitute the Bureau and will remain in office over the next session. The Executive Body may also wish to decide to include the chairperson of the Implementation Committee in the Bureau.

Item 13: Adoption of the report of the sixteenth session

The Executive Body is expected to conclude its work by adopting the report of its sixteenth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

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**TENTATIVE TIMETABLE**

Tuesday, 8 December

p.m. - Items 1, 2, 3 and 4

Wednesday, 9 December

a.m. - Item 4 (continued)

p.m. - Items 5, 6 and 7

Thursday, 10 December

a.m. - Items 7 (continued) and 8

p.m. - Items 9, 10, 11 and 12

Friday, 11 December

a.m. - Free

p.m. - Item 13