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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Eighteenth session, Geneva
(28 November – 1 December 2000)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 28 November 2000

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the fifty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the seventh session 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/2000/1).
4. Compliance with protocol obligations (EB.AIR/2000/2).

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5. Financing of core activities (EB.AIR/2000/3).
6. Progress in core activities (EB.AIR/2000/4):
 - (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.
7. Activities of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (EB.AIR/WG.5/66, EB.AIR/WG.5/2000/7).
8. Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention.
9. Work-plan (EB.AIR/2000/5).
10. Financial issues (EB.AIR/2000/6).
11. Other business.
12. Election of officers.
13. Adoption of the report of the eighteenth session.

To facilitate their access to the Palais des Nations, those delegates who do not have a valid badge should register with the secretariat by 13 November. Registration forms and explanatory notes are available on the Internet at www.unece.org/env/eb. The documents for the session will be made available on the same Web site as soon as possible.

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-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the seventh session 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-fifth session of the Commission (E/ECE/1381) and at the seventh session of the Committee on Environmental Policy ((ECE/CEP/74).

Item 3: Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution (EB.AIR/2000/1).

The secretariat will circulate the draft 2000 major review of strategies and policies based on information received from Parties (EB.AIR/2000/1 and subsequent addenda). Parties are invited to comment on the report and to provide, as appropriate, supplementary information. For information, the secretariat will also make available the complete responses from Parties, in English only, to the Executive Body and the Implementation Committee, and also on the UN/ECE Web site www.unece.org/env/eb.

Item 4: Compliance with protocol obligations

The Chairman of the Implementation Committee will present its third report (EB.AIR/2000/2) on deliberations by individual Parties on compliance with their protocol obligations.

At its sixteenth session, the Executive Body re-elected four members of the Committee for a second term of two years and elected three new members for two years. The Executive Body will elect two members to the Committee to replace those who are completing their term of office.

Item 5: Financing of core activities

The Executive Body will have before it a paper on possible options for establishing a secure long-term mechanism for financing the core activities (effects and integrated assessment modelling). The paper was prepared, by the Executive Body's Bureau in collaboration with the secretariat, from a draft presented to the Working Group on Strategies and Review for its consideration (EB.AIR/WG.5/2000/3).

The Executive Body is expected to take decisions on future action.

Item 6: Progress in core activities

To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, the secretariat will circulate document EB.AIR/2000/4, containing a summary of the main issues and results achieved within the scope of the Convention. The documents are based on the following information:

(a) The results of the twenty-fourth 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.1/2000/2);

(b) The results of the nineteenth session of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/2).

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

Item 7: Activities of the Working Group on Strategies and Review

The Chairman of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will introduce this agenda item by referring to the discussions and decisions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its thirty-second session (EB.AIR/WG.5/66). He will also draw attention to the conclusions of the workshop on Future needs for regional air pollution strategies, held in Saltsjobaden, Sweden, in April 2000 (EB.AIR/WG.5/2000/7) and to the relevant decisions of the Executive Body at its seventeenth session on the structure and organization of work (decision 1999/2, ECE/EB.AIR/68, annex III).

The Executive Body is expected to decide upon its future priorities, which will need to be reflected in work-plans of its subsidiary bodies.

Item 8: 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 (e.g. World Meteorological Organization, World Health Organization, European Commission) will be invited to provide information on their activities of particular relevance to the Convention (e.g. Clean Air For Europe Programme of the European Community). The Executive Body may wish to take this information into account when considering the work-plan for 2001.

Item 9: 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/2000/5), taking into consideration recommendations from the subsidiary bodies and results of ongoing activities. The draft work-plan has been prepared taking into account the new structure of the Convention and the mandates of the subsidiary bodies. Delegations may wish to provide additional information for the work-plan.

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/2000/6). In particular, the detailed budget for EMEP for 2001 and its provisional budget for 2002 will be adopted under this agenda item.

To secure funding in the short term for non-EMEP core activities, the Executive Body may wish to decide upon a budget for 2001 and provisional budgets for 2002 and 2003 for the international effects coordination and integrated assessment modelling activities. It may also wish to recommend a scale of voluntary contributions for Parties to meet the 2001 budget.

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 Bureau of the Executive Body currently comprises one chairperson and seven vice-chairpersons, including the chairpersons of the four major subsidiary bodies. The Executive Body is expected to elect these officers. They constitute the Bureau and will remain in office over the next session.

Item 13: Adoption of the report of the eighteenth session

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

TENTATIVE TIMETABLETuesday, 28 November 2000

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

Wednesday, 29 November 2000

a.m. - Items 5 and 6

p.m. - Item 6 (continued)

Thursday, 30 November 2000

a.m. - Items 7, 8 and 9

p.m. - Items 10, 11 and 12

Friday, 1 December 2000

a.m.	-	Free
p.m.	-	Item 13