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ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE

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STATEMENT TO MINISTERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BODY
FOR THE CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE
TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION ON THE
PREPARATION OF A LONG-TERM FUNDING
ARRANGEMENT FOR CORE ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSED
PARAGRAPH FOR THE 2003 KIEV MINISTERIAL
DECLARATION

submitted by

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

through the Ad Hoc Working Group of Senior Officials

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**STATEMENT TO MINISTERS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE
CONVENTION ON LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION ON
THE PREPARATION OF A LONG-TERM FUNDING ARRANGEMENT FOR
CORE ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSED PARAGRAPH FOR THE 2003 KIEV
MINISTERIAL DECLARATION¹**

Submitted by the secretariat at the request of the Executive Body for the Convention on
Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

1. The Executive Body to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary air Pollution at its twentieth session, held 10 – 13 December 2002, approved the statement to ministers at the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Kiev in May 2003 informing them of the action taken in response to the 1999 Gothenburg Ministerial Declaration and the related paragraph for inclusion in the draft Ministerial Declaration for Kiev (ECE/EB.AIR/77, annex II). It requested the secretariat to ensure that the statement and the related proposed paragraph were drawn to ministers’ attention and reflected in the draft Ministerial Declaration for Kiev.

I. STATEMENT TO MINISTERS

2. In the Gothenburg Ministerial Declaration of 1 December 1999, ministers requested the Executive Body to prepare a stable, long-term funding arrangement, preserving the possibilities for contributing in kind, for the international coordination of health and ecosystem effect-related activities and integrated assessment modelling.

3. These “core activities”, fundamental to the effects-based approaches used for developing recent protocols to the Convention, and providing valuable information and data to other forums, are not covered by the Convention’s 1984 Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) that funds the international centres of EMEP specified in the Protocol. Despite the substantial efforts made by the Parties over the years, the fair sharing of the financial burden of core activities, apart from those under EMEP, has not yet been achieved.

4. To address the ministers’ request, the Executive Body considered the possibility of a protocol or a decision as a means of achieving long-term financing of the core activities. Many Parties believed that a protocol would be the best means to secure this objective. Others indicated that their governments could not at present agree to such a mandatory

¹ This document was not formally edited.

funding arrangement. Some of the Parties that already supported particular programmes and centres indicated that, in any event, they would continue to provide funding for them.

5. There was no consensus for proceeding by way of a Protocol. Instead, the Executive Body adopted Decision 2002/1 to facilitate funding. The decision requires the Executive Body to adopt by consensus each year a budget for core activities in the coming year and provisional budgets for the following two years. The budget should be met by recommended contributions from Parties, in cash or in kind, calculated on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessment. Such an approach has been widely and effectively used in the context of other multilateral environmental agreements.

6. Past voluntary funding agreements under the Convention have, however, failed to secure adequate funds. The new decision on funding is an improvement on the previous arrangements, especially because of the increased transparency that will result from the full recording of direct contributions made to the centres. Nevertheless, the Executive Body decided at its twentieth session in December 2002 to review, at its twenty-third session, the case for adopting a funding protocol in the light of the effectiveness of the new decision.

7. The new decision on funding will meet the needs of the Convention if each Party makes its contribution in full. Without adequate funding for the core activities, the Convention would not be able to fulfil its work-plan. The Executive Body, therefore, urges ministers to expedite the necessary action for the purpose of ensuring that the necessary contributions are made annually starting in 2003.

II. PROPOSED PARAGRAPH FOR THE 2003 KIEV MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

8. The Executive Body proposes that Ministers:

Welcome the decision taken by the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to facilitate funding from Parties for its core activities, and resolve to take action for the purpose of ensuring the necessary contributions, in cash or in kind, for this important work.