



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/EB.AIR/90
14 September 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Twenty-fifth session
Geneva, 10–13 December 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 10 December 2007¹

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the report of the twenty-fourth session

¹ There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the Convention's website (<http://www.unece.org/env/registration/lrtap.htm>), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit at the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section's new location at the Pregny gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the Convention's website (<http://www.unece.org/env/registration/lrtap.htm>).

3. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations
4. Matters arising from meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings
5. Proposal from Lithuania to adjust annex II to the 1994 Oslo Protocol
6. Progress in core activities
7. Review and revision of protocols and other strategy activities
8. Review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol
9. Compliance with protocol obligations
10. Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution
11. Guidelines for estimating and reporting emission
12. Opening the Convention and its protocols
13. Documentation for the Convention
14. Activities of UNECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention
15. 2008 workplan
16. Financial issues
17. Other business
18. Election of officers
19. Adoption of decisions taken at the twenty-fifth session

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/90 (Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session)

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the agenda for its twenty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/90).

Item 2: Adoption of the report of the twenty-fourth session

Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/89 and ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1 (Report of the Executive Body on its twenty-fourth session)

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the report of its twenty-fourth session as amended.

Item 3: Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon

The Executive Body at its twenty-fourth session provisionally adopted decision 2006/11 on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to attend meetings under the Convention. In accordance with the decision, the Bureau will make recommendations on each application for accreditation received from such organizations. The Executive Body is expected to decide upon accreditation for each application. The Executive Body may wish to consider further its decision to adopt provisionally decision 2006/11.

Item 4: Matters arising from meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings

Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon

The secretariat will draw the attention of the Executive Body to relevant discussions held at the sixty-second session of the Commission (E/2007/37-E/ECE/1448) and at the fourteenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/144). It will draw special attention to the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" held in Belgrade from 10 to 12 October

2007. The secretariat will also report on the status of the Convention and its protocols, noting accessions and ratifications that have taken place over the past year.

Item 5: Proposal from Lithuania to adjust annex II to the 1994 Oslo Protocol

Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon

The secretariat has received and circulated to Parties, 90 days before the session, a proposal from Lithuania to adjust annex II to the 1994 Oslo Protocol, to include its name in the table with emission levels/ceilings (in kt SO₂ per year) for 1980, 1990 and 2010 respectively as follows: 311, 222, 145. The figure for 2010 represents a 35 per cent decrease from the 1990 base year. The Executive Body will be invited to adopt the adjustment to enable Lithuania to accede to the Protocol.

Item 6: Progress in core activities

Tentative timing: Monday, 10 December, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/2007/1 (Progress in core activities)
ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/2 (Report of the thirty-first session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP))
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/2 (Report of the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on Effects)

To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, document ECE/EB.AIR/2007/1 contains a summary of the main issues and results and highlights conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Executive Body. The document, which will be presented by the chairs of the relevant subsidiary bodies, is based on the following information:

(a) The results of the thirty-first session of the Steering Body to EMEP;

(b) The results of the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on Effects.

The Executive Body is expected to take note of these reports and of the relevant conclusions and recommendations. In particular, the Executive Body is expected to consider the communication from the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) secretariat inviting the Convention to become a participating organization in GEO.

Item 7: Review and revision of protocols and other strategy activities

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 11 December, morning

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/86 (Report of the thirty-ninth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review)
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88 (Report of the fortieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review)
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/14 (Negotiation of a revised or new protocol on persistent organic pollutants (POPs))
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/11 (Mechanisms for amending the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants)
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/15 (Follow-up on the review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals)
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17 (Revised action plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/9 (Gothenburg workshop on air pollution and its relation to climate change and sustainable development)

The Chair 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-ninth and fortieth sessions. The Executive Body is expected to take note of the reports and consider the relevant conclusions and recommendations. It will discuss in detail activities associated with each of the three most recent protocols as well as other areas of work under the Working Group on Strategies and Review:

(a) Persistent organic pollutants. The Executive Body is expected to consider action on any proposals for new substances for addition to the Protocol. It is expected to give due consideration to the work being done on new substances for possible inclusion in the Protocol. It will need to consider any further action necessary in the light of the results reported to the Working Group on Strategies and Review by the Task Force on POPs, taking into account the discussions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the information on mechanisms for amending the Protocol previously provided by an ad hoc group of legal experts as well as the offer by the Task Force to assist in work on a revision to the Protocol.

(b) Heavy metals. The Executive Body is expected to consider action on any proposals for new substances for addition to the Protocol. In view of the completion of the first review of the Protocol at its twenty-fourth session, the Executive Body is expected to consider plans for further work on heavy metals, taking into account the report of the Task Force on

Heavy Metals as well as the discussions and conclusions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

(c) 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. The review of this Protocol will be discussed under agenda item 8.

(d) Exchange of information, communication and the Action Plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The Chair of the Working Group will provide information on progress in work on exchange of information and on the implementation of the Action Plan for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), drawing attention to a revised Action Plan discussed by the Working Group. The secretariat will provide information on the finalization of work on the United Nations Development Account-funded project Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia (CAPACT) (www.unece.org/ie/capact), which was expanded, with trust fund support, from its Central Asian focus to include experts from other countries with economies in transition. Delegations from countries with economies in transition may wish to highlight their countries' priorities for capacity-building and for follow-up work to CAPACT. The Executive Body is expected to discuss the exchange of information and the Action Plan and agree on any further necessary action.

(e) The delegation of Sweden may wish to present the results of the Gothenburg workshop on air pollution and its relation to climate change and sustainable development. Other delegations may wish to present their views on the conclusions and proposals of the workshop.

Item 8: Review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 11 December, morning and afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88 (Report of the fortieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review)
 ECE/EB.AIR/2007/10 (Review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol)
 ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/14 (Review report of the Working Group on Effects)
 ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/18 (Report on the fourth and fifth meetings of the Expert Group on Particulate Matter)
 ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/13 (Executive summary of the interim report of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution)

From decisions taken at its twenty-fourth session, the Executive Body is expected to complete its first review of the Protocol. The secretariat will introduce the document summarizing

information from the subsidiary bodies to support the review; the main subsidiary bodies have already reviewed and amended a draft of the document. In addition, the Executive Body will have available, inter alia, a report by the Working Group on Effects, a report by the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, and a report by the Expert Group on Particulate Matter. More detailed information on particular aspects of the review will be provided in informal documents by, inter alia, the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (interim report), the Expert Group on Particulate Matter (final report), and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (report on the Protocol review). The Parties to the Protocol meeting within the Executive Body may wish agree upon further action, including possible revision of the Protocol, as a result of the review. The Executive Body may wish to decide upon elements for inclusion in the workplan for 2008 as well as upon work for the longer term.

Item 9: Compliance with protocol obligations

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 12 December, morning

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/2007/3 (Tenth report of the Implementation Committee)

The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present its tenth report on compliance by individual Parties with their protocol obligations and on an in-depth review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. The Executive Body is expected to consider the Committee's recommendations.

At its twenty-fourth session, the Executive Body elected one new member to the Committee for a term of two years and re-elected another for a further period of two years. At its twenty-third session, the Executive Body elected four new members to the Committee and its Chair for a term of two years and re-elected two of its members for a further period of two years. Those elected at the twenty-third session have now completed their terms of office, and elections are necessary. The Executive Body may wish to appoint a chair for the Committee.

Item 10: Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 12 December, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/2007/4 (Preparation of the questionnaire on strategies and policies)

ECE/EB.AIR/2007/5 (Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution)

The secretariat will provide the Executive Body with information on the publication of the 2006 Review of Strategies and Policies. The secretariat will describe consultations between an ad hoc group of experts and the secretariat on the preparation of the 2008 questionnaire on strategies and policies, as requested by the Executive Body at its twenty-fourth session. The secretariat will also introduce the draft 2008 questionnaire for air pollution abatement together with proposals for collecting and reporting information from Parties. Parties are invited to comment on the draft questionnaire and proposals and to adopt them.

Item 11: Guidelines for estimating and reporting emission

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 12 December, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/15 (Guidelines for estimating and reporting emissions)
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88 (Report of the fortieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review)

The Executive Body will be informed of the preparation of revised guidelines by EMEP and the consideration of the legal standing and the possible strengthening of the guidelines by the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The Executive Body is expected to consider adopting the guidelines for use in the Convention's work.

Item 12: Opening the Convention and its protocols

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 12 December, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/2006/8 (Possibilities for opening the Convention)

The Executive Body at its twenty-third session invited its Bureau to consider the issue of opening the Convention and to provide it with information on the legal and practical aspects of doing so at its twenty-fourth session. At its twenty-fourth session, the Executive Body considered possibilities for opening the Convention. It agreed to continue efforts to attract participation from non-UNECE delegations and invited its Bureau to consider the issue of opening the Convention further to explore any alternative options, develop a more focused way forward, and report back to the twenty-fifth session. The Executive Body is expected to consider the further deliberations of the Bureau and decide upon the need for further action.

Item 13: Documentation for the Convention

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 12 December, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/2007/11 (Documentation for the Convention)

The secretariat will describe work on document harmonization in UNECE and the efforts being made to streamline the Convention's documentation. It will draw attention to the United Nations requirements for documentation that are being implemented more strictly. It will present proposals to overcome some existing problems and note future possible changes. Delegations may wish to provide views on current and possible future practices.

Item 14: Activities of UNECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention

Tentative timing: Thursday, 13 December, morning

The secretariat will report on relevant activities of UNECE bodies. Representatives of international organizations (e.g. World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization) will be invited to provide information on their activities of particular relevance to the Convention. The European Community will be invited to provide additional relevant information on the revision of the National Emission Ceilings Directive, collaboration with the Convention's technical bodies and programme centres and future cooperation with the Convention. The Executive Body may wish to take this information into account when considering its workplan.

Item 15: 2008 workplan

Tentative timing: Thursday, 13 December, morning

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/2007/6 (Draft workplan for the implementation of the Convention in 2008)
ECE/EB.AIR/2007/7 (Draft 2008 workplan for the effects-oriented activities)
ECE/EB.AIR/2007/8 (Draft workplan for EMEP for 2008)
ECE/EB.AIR/2007/9 (Draft 2008 workplan for the Working Group on Strategies and Review)

The Executive Body will be called upon to agree on a workplan for the implementation of the Convention in 2008, also taking into account its medium-term requirements. To assist the Executive Body in accomplishing this task, the secretariat will make available draft workplans as agreed by each of the main subsidiary bodies, based on drafts submitted to them, and will provide an explanatory note on the procedures for adopting workplans. Delegations may wish to provide additional information for the workplan.

Item 16: Financial issues

Tentative timing: Thursday, 13 December, morning

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/2007/2 (Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention)

The Executive Body is expected to consider the status of the Convention and take the necessary steps to meet the costs of implementing the workplan. In particular, the budgets for EMEP, and for the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol, for 2008 and provisional budgeted amounts for the future will be adopted under this agenda item.

The secretariat will present information on donations provided to support activities for the implementation of the Convention and its protocols in EECCA, as well as a budget for future work in this area. The Executive Body may wish to decide on further action to promote this work and attract the necessary funding.

Item 17: Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 13 December, morning

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

Item 18: Election of officers

Tentative timing: Thursday, 13 December, afternoon

The Bureau of the Executive Body currently comprises one chair and seven vice-chairs, including the chairs 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. The Executive Body is also expected to elect the chair for the Working Group on Strategies and Review and for the Implementation Committee.

Item 19: Adoption of decisions taken at the twenty-fifth session

Tentative timing: Thursday, 13 December, afternoon

In accordance with the revised practice adopted by the Executive Body at its twenty-third session (ECE/EB.AIR/87, para. 73(b)), for a two-year trial the Executive Body will adopt its decisions taken during the session. The draft report of the session, reflecting the adopted decisions, will be finalized by the Chair, in consultation with the secretariat, following the session and posted on

the website of the Convention. The report will be presented for adoption at the twenty-sixth session of the Executive Body. The Executive Body is expected to decide upon future practice for agreeing its decisions and its report.
