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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Forty-second session  
Geneva, 1–5 September 2008  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**DRAFT 2009 WORKPLAN**

Note by the secretariat

**1.1 STRATEGIES AND REVIEW**

Description/objectives: Assessment of ongoing scientific and technical activities for the review of existing protocols or the preparation of new ones; negotiating revisions of protocols, including their annexes; promoting the exchange of technology; and preparing proposals for strategic developments under the Convention. The Working Group on Strategies and Review will assist the Executive Body in all policy-related issues.

Main activities and time schedule: Taking into account relevant activities under EMEP<sup>1</sup> and the Working Group on Effects, as well as the initiatives of the European Community and other

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<sup>1</sup> The Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe.

Parties, and on the basis of information received from its expert groups and task forces, the Working Group on Strategies and Review will, in particular:

(a) Continue negotiations, in accordance with article 3, paragraph 12, on the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol<sup>2</sup>, based on recommendations by the Executive Body and on the conclusions of the Protocol review; and assess progress made in reducing acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone and the pollutants responsible for these effects, and in work carried out under items 1.3 (economic assessment) and 1.8 (ammonia abatement) below. It will also review work carried out under item 2.3 (integrated assessment modelling) of the EMEP workplan;

(b) Assess work on the review of, and possible amendments to, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), taking into account progress under item 1.4 (review and assessment of POPs); and initiate negotiations on a revision/amendment to the Protocol, based on recommendations by the Executive Body;

(c) Assess work following the review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, taking into account progress under item 1.5 (review and assessment of heavy metals);

(d) Review progress made in the exchange of information and technology, including work carried out under item 1.6 (techno-economic issues); and also review information received on product-related measures to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), POPs and heavy metals as well as progress in other work carried out under item 1.7 (exchange of information and technology);

(e) Implement the revised Action Plan to involve the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in the work of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17);

(f) Develop, if necessary, a specific Action Plan to involve countries of South-Eastern Europe (SEE) in the work of the Convention;

(g) Assess progress made in the Convention's communication strategy, and consider possible future needs in relation with the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention in 2009;

(h) Encourage further ratifications and explore ways to support and facilitate countries' efforts towards the implementation and ratification of the protocols;

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<sup>2</sup> The 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.

(i) Hold its forty-third session from 20 to 24 April 2009 and its forty-fourth session from 21 to 25 September 2009.

## **1.2 REVIEWS OF STRATEGIES AND POLICIES FOR AIR POLLUTION ABATEMENT**

Description/objectives: To create an overview of air pollution abatement in the UNECE region, giving a comprehensive description of national and international strategies and policies, including legislation in force, emission levels and future priorities; and to provide, together with emission data, a basis for the Implementation Committee to review compliance by Parties with their obligations under the protocols to the Convention. Reviews for purposes of compliance are carried out every two years; a general policy review is carried out every four years.

Main activities and time schedule: The replies to the 2008 questionnaire will be made available on the Convention's website and information will be provided to the Implementation Committee as needed. On the basis of feedback from the Executive Body, the Implementation Committee and the Parties, the secretariat will propose draft questions for the 2010 questionnaire, including a general policy section, to the Executive Body at its twenty-seventh session. Once agreed, the 2010 questionnaire will be made available to Parties in January 2010.

## **1.3 ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF BENEFITS FROM AIR POLLUTION ABATEMENT AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS**

Description/objectives: To develop further the work on benefits and economic instruments; and to enable economic considerations to be taken into account in the discussion/review of the protocols to the Convention.

Main activities and time schedule: The Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments, led by the United Kingdom with Norway as rapporteur, will provide the framework and expertise for a series of workshops. The Network will meet only on the occasion of planned workshops and will include not only economists but also representatives from other specialist groups. The Network will carry out work on assessing experiences of Parties in using economic instruments for reducing air pollution and will update the Guidance Document on Economic Instruments to Reduce Nitrogen Oxides, Sulphur, VOCs and Ammonia (EB.AIR/1999/2, chapter VI) in the revision process for the Gothenburg Protocol.

#### **1.4 REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS**

Description/objectives: To work on the technical reviews of substances forwarded to it by the Executive Body and deemed acceptable by the Parties to the Protocol on POPs, and to continue to explore management strategies and options for those substances accepted as POPs by the Parties to the Protocol. The Task Force on POPs, led by Canada and the Netherlands, will carry out the technical work for these reviews and strategies.

Main activities/time schedule: The Task Force on POPs will:

- (a) Upon request, assist the Executive Body and the Working Group in the revision of the Protocol;
- (b) Hold its seventh meeting in 2009, if necessary (date and venue to be decided).

#### **1.5 REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF HEAVY METALS**

Description/objectives: To continue the technical work related to the sufficiency and effectiveness review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals; and to carry out work, if necessary, on the technical review of proposals for additional heavy metals, product control measures or products/product groups. The Task Force on Heavy Metals, led by Germany, will carry out the technical work.

Main activities and time schedule: The Task Force on Heavy Metals will:

- (a) Upon request, assist the Executive Body and the Working Group in a possible revision of the Protocol or its technical annexes;
- (b) Plan a follow-up workshop, to be held in an EECCA country, to promote ratification of the Protocol, including through further focusing on specific challenges identified in the implementation of the obligations of the Protocol and through recommending future actions;
- (c) Hold its sixth meeting in April or in May 2009 back-to-back with the EECCA workshop to raise the awareness of the local policymakers and better involve EECCA experts in the activities of the Convention (exact date and venue to be decided);

(d) Assist the Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues, as needed, including through providing information relevant to particulate matter (PM) for sources covered by the Protocol on Heavy Metals.

## **1.6 TECHNO-ECONOMIC ISSUES**

Description/objectives: To explore further best available techniques (BAT) for emission abatement, including their efficiencies and costs; to continue to develop a techno-economic database (ECODAT) and methodologies for evaluating uncertainties; and to draw up draft revisions of techno-economic items in annexes to protocols.

Main activities and time schedule: The Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues, with France and Italy as lead countries, will:

(a) Initiate work on proposals to revise annexes IV, V and VI to the Gothenburg Protocol, specifying limit values for sulphur, nitrogen oxides and VOCs for stationary sources, as well as annex VIII for mobile sources; carry out preparatory technical work to address the requirement in article 3, paragraph 7, of the Protocol to consider limit values for the VOCs content of products not included in annex VI or VIII, with a view to adopting an annex, and carry out work on drafting an annex on limit values for emissions of PM (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) from stationary sources;

(b) Revise the guidance documents associated with the Gothenburg Protocol on sulphur, nitrogen oxides and VOCs, and add PM to the guidance documents (in consultation with the Task Force on Heavy Metals);

(c) Report on progress to the forty-third and the forty-fourth sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

(d) Cooperate with the European Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Bureau for the revision of BAT reference documents for the steel, glass and possibly cement industries, mainly on cost issues;

(e) Hold its fourteenth meeting in 2009 (venue to be specified).

## **1.7 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

Description/objectives: To create favourable conditions for implementing technology-related obligations of the Convention and its protocols; to facilitate the implementation of existing

protocols and the accession of non-Parties, particularly countries with economies in transition; and to examine the needs for updating technical annexes and guidance documents to the protocols.

Main activities and time schedule: The Working Group on Strategies and Review will:

- (a) Implement the revised Action Plan to involve EECCA countries in the work of the Convention;
- (b) Develop a possible new Action Plan to involve SEE countries in the work of the Convention;

## **1.8 REACTIVE NITROGEN**

Description/objectives: To develop an integrated approach towards controlling nitrogen pollution in the framework of the Convention and to improve coordination between the work of various Convention bodies on nitrogen compounds. A Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, led by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, will carry out tasks as outlined in decision 2007/1 of the Executive Body.

Main activities and time schedule: The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen will:

- (a) Improve coordination of activities across and outside the Convention and collaborate with subsidiary bodies under the Convention to complement the work of the subsidiary bodies, in particular by:
  - (i) Providing technical information for the proposed report of the Working Group on Effects on the impacts of airborne nitrogen on the environment and human health;
  - (ii) Collaborating with ICP<sup>3</sup> Modelling and Mapping, in particular on critical loads and dynamic modelling of nitrogen effects, including the development of indicators;

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<sup>3</sup> International Cooperative Programme.

- (iii) Collaborating with the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, and participating in the relevant meetings and contributions to their expert work;
- (iv) Collaborating with the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, participating in relevant meetings and in particular providing advice to avoid pollutant swapping and to improve nitrogen budgets at the national level;
- (b) Continue the work of the former Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement, to develop technical and scientific information on an integrated approach to mitigation of agricultural nitrogen emissions, with particular reference to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, in particular to update the Framework Code of Good Agricultural Practice and the Guidance Document, to inform the Working Group on Strategies and Review's deliberations on revisions to annex IX of the Protocol, and to take account of reference documents for best available technologies (BREFs);
- (c) Provide technical information on making nitrogen balances and estimating nitrogen emissions at various spatial scales and for various system boundaries, and formalize the use and presentation of nitrogen balances;
- (d) Develop and provide technical and scientific information to support the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in relation to the whole nitrogen cycle;
- (e) Request the national focal points to provide national reports on technical and scientific information related to nitrogen;
- (f) Consider the first results from the European Nitrogen Assessment, in particular to receive the report on the assessment review of nitrogen emissions, impacts and policies relevant to the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, and to provide feedback to the European Nitrogen Assessment process;
- (g) Host a Workshop on the review of methodologies on nitrogen balances, tentatively scheduled to be held in connection with the second meeting of the Task Force;
- (h) Host the Task Force's second meeting, tentatively scheduled to be held in April 2009.

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