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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

Twenty-fourth session  
Geneva, 11–14 December 2006

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 11 December 2006<sup>1</sup>

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising from meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings

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<sup>1</sup> New accreditation procedures have been introduced 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 2 weeks before the meeting. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section new location at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Convention's website).

3. Progress in core activities
4. Review and revision of protocols and other strategy activities
5. Financing of core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol
6. Compliance with protocol obligations
7. Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution
8. Opening the Convention and its protocols
9. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to attend meetings under the Convention
10. Activities of UNECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention
11. 2007 workplan
12. Financial issues
13. Other business
14. Election of officers
15. Adoption of decisions taken at the twenty-fourth session

## **II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the agenda for its twenty-fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/88).

### **Item 2: Matters arising from meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings**

The secretariat will draw the attention of the Executive Body to relevant discussions held at the sixty-first session of the Commission (E/2006/37-E/ECE/1444) and at the thirteenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/132). It will draw special attention to the Commission's Regional Implementation Meeting, held on 15–16 December 2005, and its input to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which began discussions on the topics of air pollution, climate change, sustainable energy and industrial development in May 2006 (E/2006/29(SUPP), E/CN.17/2006/15(SUPP)). It will also outline the preparations being made for the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held in Belgrade on 10–12 October 2007.

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

**Item 3: Progress in core activities**

To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, the secretariat will circulate document ECE/EB.AIR/2006/1, which 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 chairpersons of the relevant subsidiary bodies, is based on the following information:

(a) The results of the thirtieth 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/GE.1/2006/2);

(b) The results of the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/2).

The Executive Body is expected to take note of these reports and of the relevant conclusions and recommendations. It may also wish to consider the rules for data use under the Convention adopted by the Working Group on Effects and agree to endorse them.

**Item 4: Review and revision of protocols and other strategy activities**

The Chairperson 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-eighth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/84) and the meeting of its heads of delegation (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/82).

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 (POPs). In view of the decisions taken at the twenty-third session, where the Parties agreed that the first review of the Protocol on POPs was completed, due consideration should be given to the work done on new substances for possible inclusion in the Protocol. The Executive Body will need to consider any further action necessary in the light of the results of the technical reviews of the dossiers reported to the Working Group on Strategies and Review by the Task Force on POPs (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/10), namely: “track A” and “track B” reviews of hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd), octabromodiphenyl ether (Octa-BDE), polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCN), pentachlorobenzene (PeCB) and short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCP); and “track B” reviews, including the exploration of management options, of substances accepted as POPs by the Executive Body at its twenty-third session: pentabromodiphenyl ether (PentaBDE) and perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS) following the reviews of dossiers on these substances.

The Executive Body may also wish to consider action on, *inter alia*, proposals for new substances for addition to the Protocol, taking into account discussions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the information on mechanisms for amending the Protocol provided by an ad hoc group of legal experts (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/11).

(b) Heavy metals. In view of the decisions taken at the twenty-third session, due consideration should be given to the progress made towards completion of the first review of the sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol, as well as progress on scheduled re-evaluations, on the assessment of a satisfactory basis for using the critical loads approach, and on procedures for technical review of new substances, product control measures or product groups that may be proposed for addition to the Protocol. In addition to the discussions and conclusions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, the Executive Body may wish to take into account the report of the Task Force on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/2).

The Executive Body may also wish to consider action on other matters related to heavy metals resulting from discussions in the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

(c) 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. In view of the discussions held and decisions taken at its twenty-third session, the Executive Body should consider progress in preparing the first review of the Protocol as required by its article 10. The Executive Body will have before it a plan for the review of the Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/6), which includes comments and suggestions made by its main subsidiary bodies at their sessions in August/September 2006.

The Chairperson of the Working Group will summarize progress in the work on particulate matter pollution and invite the Executive Body to consider any action required. He will draw

attention to the work on integrated assessment modelling and its contribution to the review process. He will note activities on ammonia abatement, including the preparation of a revised Guidance Document on Control Techniques for Preventing and Abating Emissions of Ammonia being prepared by the Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement. He may invite the Executive Body to consider planning for revision of the technical annexes of the Protocol.

(d) Exchange of information, communication and the Action Plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).<sup>1</sup> The Chairperson 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 EECCA countries. He will draw attention to a report discussed and amended by the Working Group (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/12 as amended). The secretariat will provide an update of the 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](http://www.unece.org/ie/capact)) that was extended, 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. The Executive Body is expected to discuss the exchange of information and the action plan and agree on any further necessary action.

**Item 5: Financing of core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol**

The Executive Body, at its twenty-third session, noted that decision 2002/1 had not been effective in attracting the necessary funds for coordinating the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol. It requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review to consider the matter further to identify more effective alternatives to decision 2002/1. The Executive Body may wish to consider further action in the light of the conclusions of the Working Group.

**Item 6: Compliance with protocol obligations**

The Chairperson of the Implementation Committee will present its ninth report (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/3 and Add.1 and Add.2) on compliance by individual Parties with their protocol obligations and on an in-depth review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals. The Executive Body is expected to consider the Committee's recommendations.

At its twenty-third session, the Executive Body elected four new members to the Committee for a term of two years and re-elected another three for a further period of two years. At its twenty-

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<sup>1</sup> Action Plan to Involve EECCA Countries in the Work of the Convention.

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

**Item 7: Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution**

The Executive Body will have before it a draft report on strategies and policies prepared by the secretariat and a consultant, and based upon the responses of Parties to the 2006 questionnaire (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/4 and Add.1 and Add.2). The Executive Body may wish to provide advice on the finalization of the report and approve its subsequent publication.

**Item 8: Opening the Convention and its protocols**

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. It will have before it a document on possibilities for opening the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/8). The Executive Body is expected to consider the options available and the need for further action.

**Item 9: Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to attend meetings under the Convention**

The Executive Body at its twenty-third session requested its Bureau to propose details for a new system of accreditation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It will have before it a document on procedures for accreditation of NGOs (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/7). The Executive Body is expected to consider the possibilities and decide upon any new procedures it may wish to use.

**Item 10: Activities of UNECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention**

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 Executive Body may wish to take this information into account when considering its workplan.

The European Community will be invited to provide additional relevant information on the Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme, including the revision of the National Emission Ceilings Directive, collaboration between CAFE and the Convention's technical bodies and programme centres, and on future cooperation with the Convention.

**Item 11: 2007 workplan**

The Executive Body will be called upon to agree on a workplan for the implementation of the Convention in 2007, 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 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/4, ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2006/10 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/9 as amended), and will provide an explanatory note on the procedures for adopting workplans (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/5). Delegations may wish to provide additional information for the workplan.

**Item 12: 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 workplan.

In particular, the budgets for EMEP, and for the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol, for 2007 and provisional budgeted amounts for the future (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/2) will be adopted under this agenda item.

The secretariat will present information on donations provided to support activities for implementation of the Convention and its protocols in EECCA, as well as a budget for future work in this area (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/2). The Executive Body may wish to decide on further action to promote this work and attract the necessary funding.

**Item 13: Other business**

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

**Item 14: 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. The Executive Body is also expected to elect the chairperson for the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

**Item 15: Adoption of decisions taken at the twenty-fourth session**

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 Chairperson, 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-fifth session of the Executive Body.

### **TENTATIVE TIMETABLE**

#### Monday, 11 December 2006

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

#### Tuesday, 12 December 2005

a.m.                      -                      Items 4 (continued)

p.m.                      -                      Items 4 (continued), 5

#### Wednesday, 13 December 2005

a.m.                      -                      Items 6, 7

p.m.                      -                      Items 8, 9, 10

#### Thursday, 14 December 2005

a.m.                      -                      Items 11, 12, 13, 14

p.m.                      -                      Item 15