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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Twenty-fifth session
Geneva, 10-13 December 2007
Item 15 of the provisional agenda

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fortieth session
Geneva, 17-20 September 2007
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT 2008 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 EMEP¹ and the Working Group on Effects, as well as the initiatives of the European Community and other 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) Initiate negotiations, in accordance with article 3, paragraph 12, on a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, based on recommendations by the Executive Body and on the conclusions of the Protocol review; 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) Review current work under the Convention on particulate matter (PM) with due consideration to the reports of the Expert Group on PM and consider, inter alia, the work of the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM) on the scientific and technical requirements in developing further measures to reduce PM;

(c) 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;

(d) 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);

(e) Review progress made in the exchange of information and technology, including work carried out under item 1.6 (techno-economic issues), 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);

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

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

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

(h) 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;

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

(j) Hold its forty-first session from 14 to 18 April 2008 and its forty-second session from 1 to 5 September 2008.

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:

(a) A draft review of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement will be made available to the Executive Body in 2008. The draft review will be based on replies to the 2008 questionnaire, approved by the Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session, and made available by the secretariat through the Convention's website;

(b) If approved by the Executive Body, the draft review will be published on the website of the Convention.

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 initiate 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 the exploration of management strategies and options for those substances accepted as POPs by the Parties to the Protocol. A task force, led by Canada and the Netherlands, will carry out the technical work for these reviews and strategies.

Main activities/time schedule: The Task Force will:

- (a) Upon request, assist the Executive Body and the Working Group in the revision of the Protocol;
- (b) Hold its seventh meeting in 2008, 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 carry out work, if necessary, on the technical review of proposals for additional heavy metals, product control measures or products/product groups. A task force, led by Germany, will carry out the technical work.

Main activities and time schedule: The Task Force 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 workshop, to be held in an EECCA country, to promote ratification of the Protocol, to assess needs and constraints related to implementation, and to recommend future action;
- (c) Hold its fifth meeting (date and venue to be decided).

1.6 TECHNO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Description/objectives: To explore further best available techniques 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) Revise the Expert Group's methodology on large combustion plants in the light of the final information provided by Sweden and Czech Republic; revise the background document to explain better the methodology and to extend its applicability to all Parties to the Convention; make the Excel spreadsheets more user-friendly; and, to this end, organize a technical meeting with the relevant experts;
- (b) Make available summaries in English of the outcomes of the German and Italian studies on small combustion plants, explore how the outcomes can be used for modelling purposes within CIAM and how the methodologies could be applied by other Parties, collect the cost-related data currently missing, make the information available to the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections as well as to CIAM, and carry out similar surveys in other countries, on voluntary basis, in order to verify the applicability of the results to other countries;
- (c) Initiate work on the possible revision of the annexes to the Gothenburg Protocol, and on revising the guidance documents (on sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and VOCs) associated with the Protocol;

(d) Finalize the background document on refineries, making use of the data collected by Belgium, and organize a meeting for all stakeholders in Brussels;

(e) Cooperate with the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections for the updating of the EMEP/CORINAIR Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook;

(f) 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;

(g) Contribute to the work of the ad hoc expert panel on stationary engines led by Finland;

(h) Hold its thirteenth meeting in 2008 (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 will

(a) Implement the revised Action Plan to involve EECCA countries in the work of the Convention;

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

1.8 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.

Main activities and time schedule: The Working Group may wish to propose to the Executive Body the establishment of a task force to address this issue and discuss its work items. It will

continue, as necessary, the work done by the Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement in relation with agricultural sources and the use of the Framework Advisory Code of Good Agricultural Practice of Reducing Ammonia Emissions.

1.9 PARTICULATE MATTER

Description/objectives: To initiate work on Technical Annexes aiming to reduce the exposure to primary PM within the UNECE region also taking account of the objective to increase the number of ratifications of existing protocols; to liaise with other bodies under the Convention, e.g. the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, to consider the reduction of PM exposure in any proposal for new national emission ceilings related to primary PM as well as precursors to secondary PM, i.e. SO₂, NO_x, VOC and NH₃.

Main activities and time schedule: The lead countries of the Expert Group, Germany and the United Kingdom, will explore from a policy perspective options for addressing PM under the Convention. Based on document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/18 and consulting with the Bureau and other bodies, where appropriate, they would report back to the Working Group at its forty-first session on this issue, proposing options, taking into account recommendations from the Executive Body, that should be further explored by the Expert Group.
