

Potential elements for strengthening future emission reporting in revising the protocols under the LRTAP Convention

Note by the Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections

Following the request of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, at its fortieth session, an ad hoc group of legal experts had explored further all possibilities under the existing "enabling clauses" in the Convention and its protocols for strengthening the language in the draft Emission Reporting Guidelines, as revised by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections (TFEIP) (e.g. using "shall" rather than "should" for specific reporting requirements). In addition to the enabling clauses that were identified, the legal experts had concluded that the protocols do not currently contain other provisions that would confer a further legally binding effect to the revised Guidelines (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/1). Consequently, strengthening of the reporting obligations further would go beyond the intent of the negotiated protocol(s). The legal experts concluded, therefore, that creation of more legally binding reporting obligations for Parties would necessitate negotiation of amendments to the relevant provisions of the Convention and its protocols.

The objective of this document is to point at elements in the draft revised Guidelines that could be amended to strengthen the emission reporting within the possible future *revision of the protocols*. TFEIP was invited by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to discuss these elements, with a view to putting forward suggestions to the Working Group (and to inform the EMEP Steering Body) on the elements of these Guidelines that could be strengthened in order to improve both the transparency and quality of emission-related data reported by Parties. It was not within the mandate of TFEIP to discuss the feasibility or the acceptability of any proposed amendments, which will be subject to negotiation by Parties to the protocols.

The fundamental objective of requiring emissions data to be reported to specific guidance is to obtain national emission inventories (and projected emissions) which are: transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate.

(http://www.unece.org/env/eb/Air_Pollutionwithcover_15_ENG.pdf and <http://www.emep-emissions.at/reporting-instructions/draft-2007-reporting-guidelines/>).

The current protocols provide principles for emission reporting, but the terminology used is not standardized and the requirements vary depending on the protocols in question. There often appears to be no clear technical reason or rationale for the differences between the reporting requirements specified within the different protocols. It may therefore be considered that

emission reporting can be strengthened using a more explicit and standardized terminology in the protocols for the key elements required for a high quality inventory.

At its twentieth meeting, TFEIP agreed on the following elements/provisions that could be specifically introduced in the protocols with a view to improving emission reporting:

- (a) Provisions for the establishment of a national emission inventory system as specified by the EMEP Steering Body, including a QA/QC system and appointment of a designated emission expert;
- (b) Use of methods specified in the Guidebook as adopted by the EMEP Steering Body;
- (c) Submission of complete emission inventories covering all sources defined in the Guidebook (if applicable) and any national specific sources;
- (d) Use of harmonized reporting templates as adopted by the EMEP Steering Body and at the level of disaggregation specified in these templates;
- (e) Submission of Informative Inventory Reports following the content and outline adopted by EMEP Steering Body;
- (f) Support research to develop emission factors and emission estimation methodologies and support the maintenance of the emission inventory Guidebook;
- (g) Establishment of an inventory quality review system.