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on Strategies and Review

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**To Heads of Delegations
of the Working Group
on Strategies and Review**

Dear colleagues,

I have a great pleasure to invite you to participate in the forty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to be held in Geneva from 30 August to 3 September 2010. The session is scheduled to start at 3 p.m. on Monday and finish at lunch time on Friday.

During this session, we will focus our work on the revision of the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals and the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. We will also have to formulate proposals to the Parties to Protocols concerning the new POPs candidates and about the mercury containing products on the basis of the recommendations of the Task Forces. Time will be dedicated for an interesting discussion on the draft Long Term Strategy for the Convention and possible feed back to the Executive Body.

The provisional annotated agenda ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/101 and other related official documents (at least as advance copies in English), as well as informal documents are available at <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/WorkingGroups/wgs/docs47th%20session.htm>

This letter intends to highlight several important issues on our agenda for which your position should be well prepared:

Item 3 of the annotated provisional agenda: Options for revising the Gothenburg Protocol

An informal document reflecting the recent development of the draft version of the Protocol was prepared by the secretariat (Inf.doc no. 1). Other supporting technical documents are also available, including contributions of the Working Group on Effects for revising annex I and target-setting issues. Accordingly we will continue our negotiations on further obligations to reduce emissions.

A first priority for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol will be to consider the results of the integrated assessment modelling work with due consideration to the first scenario analysis to be presented by CIAM. I suggest that the Chairs of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, the Working Group on Effects, the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP), as well as the Ad hoc Expert Group on Black Carbon provide a brief update on the progress made focusing on issues that are part of the Gothenburg Protocol negotiation and where the Working Group's feedback is necessary as well as be available for answering questions and discussing the progress made with delegates. The preliminary results and recommendations of the TFHTAP in its assessment report to the EMEP Steering Body, as well as the preliminary results of the ad hoc Expert Group on Black Carbon could highlight possible needs for coming negotiations.

We will also continue the technical work to explore the annexes to the Protocol and consider the issue of agriculture for the revision of annex IX and the guidance document. With regard to annex IX on ammonia/nitrogen, I intend to discuss the draft proposal of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and guidance from the Working Group to the Task Force in the plenary session.

Technical details of the annexes with emission limit values for stationary sources will be further discussed by technical experts under the leadership of Tiziano Pignatelli, first in the plenary room, to allow for translation and later, in parallel to the Working Group's session outside of the plenary room, from Tuesday until Thursday night according to the enclosed programme (see annex I). In order to facilitate maximum participation by delegates from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, I envision much of Monday's plenary

session being used to discuss these technical issues which will help facilitate final negotiation.

The various guidance documents on SO₂/NO_x/NMVOC were already revised by EGTEI and were reported at WGSR 45 in September 2009, as well as a new chapter on PM, as informal document number 1/2009. Additional information on stationary engines and small combustion installations will be reported by EGTEI at the meeting. It is expected that the expert group should finalized its work in September 2010 to allow the WGSR to negotiate the revised technical annexes at its 48th session in spring 2011.

The technical expert group meeting is dedicated to experts from national administrations, although industry experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations are welcome to attend as observers.

A progress report of our work will be presented at the twenty-eighth session of the Executive Body to be held in December 2010 with a view to finalizing our work in 2011 according to our current mandate.

Item 4 of the annotated provisional agenda: Options for revising the Protocol on Heavy Metals

The work will proceed according to the mandate of the Working Group to negotiate a revised Protocol on Heavy Metals as decided by the Executive Body at its 27th session in December 2009 with the objective to report on its progress to the 28th session of the EB in 2010 and to present a proposal for amendments to the Protocol to the Parties for adoption at the 29th session of the EB in 2011.

To facilitate the negotiation, a document was prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the proposals by the Parties and the discussions held at the 46th session of WGSR in April 2010. (See ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2010/6). I intend to commence discussions at the 47th session by inviting EECCA countries to make or discuss proposals that would be designed to facilitate their ratification of the Protocol. In addition, the Working Group will need to consider the results of the TF on HMs considering the track B review of mercury containing products in line with the EU submission and make a recommendation of further action, as mandated by the EB.

The discussion on the technical annexes containing emission values will take due consideration of the discussion of the dust ELV annex currently under discussion by the options for revising Gothenburg Protocol. It means that technical work on these issues will be handled first at the 48th session of the WGSR in spring 2011.

Item 5 of the annotated provisional agenda: Options for revising the Protocol on POPs

As mentioned in agenda.

I look forward to meeting you all in September after hopefully relaxing summer holidays.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Ballaman

PS:

In addition to this letter, you may find on the webpage of the WGSR informal discussion notes with more technical issues to be discussed during the forty-seventh session of the Working Group.

Annex I

Provisional agenda for parallel session of technical experts (Geneva, 30 August - 3 September, 2010)

SO2	NOx	Dust	NMVOc	Time
		Small combustion installations (< 50 MWth)		Tuesday 30 August from 9 to 12 AM
	Stationary engines			Tuesday 30 August from 2 to 5 PM
				Synthesis and conclusions of the day 6 to 7 PM
			Activities using solvents of annex VI : Printing activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coating processes: Vehicle coating industry • Wood coating • Coatings of metal surfaces • Coatings of plastic work pieces • Other coatings (textile, foil, fabric, paper) • Coating of leather • Coating of winding wires • Coil coating Manufacture of pharmaceutical products Dry cleaning Manufacture of coatings, varnishes, inks adhesives Conversion of natural and synthetic rubber Surface cleaning Vegetable oil and animal fat extraction and refining Wood impregnation Adhesive coating : Shoe industry ; other adhesive coating Wood and plastic lamination	Wednesday 1st September from 9 to 12 AM and from 2 to 5 PM
				Synthesis and conclusions of the day from 6 to 7 PM
			Solvent content of products	Thursday 2 September from 9 to 11 AM
TiO2 production		TiO2 production		Thursday 2 September from 11 to 12 AM
	Nitric acid plants			
		Wood Processing		Thursday 2 September from 2 to 3:30 PM
				Synthesis and conclusions of the day from 4 to 5 PM