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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 great pleasure to invite you to participate in the forty-ninth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to be held in Geneva from 12 to 16 September 2011. The session is scheduled to start at **10 a.m. on Monday** and finish at **1 p.m. on Friday**.

During this session, we will focus our work on the revision of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol and the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals and consider the status of information related to the possible second revision of the POPs Protocol by adding new substances.

The provisional annotated agenda ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/105 and other related official as well as informal documents are available at <http://live.unece.org/env/lrtap/workinggroups/wgs/docs49thsession.html>  
The French and Russian translations of the official documents will be uploaded as they become available.

As usual, this letter intends to highlight several important issues on our agenda for which your position should be well prepared:

Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda: Options for revising the Gothenburg Protocol

A first priority for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol will be to consider the results of the integrated assessment modeling work with due consideration to the scenarios analysis to be presented by CIAM and TFIAM co-chairs. This should serve as an inspiration for the Parties to the Protocol as they agree on the "further obligations to reduce emissions" called for by article 3, para.12. In concrete terms, the Working Group should envisage an optimal ambition level to further abate the emissions beyond 2010 while at the same time finding an appropriate way to accommodate possibilities for non-Parties to ratify the revised Protocol.

In line with the time schedule and the mandate given to WGSR, we have to finalize a draft revised text of the Gothenburg Protocol and its annexes at the WGSR 49 in September **for adoption by the Parties to the Protocol at the 29th Executive Body session in December 2011**.

Consequently, it means that by the end of the September meeting, we should achieved progress on the following key issues:

- To produce a draft revised annex II with preliminary ceilings in square brackets for SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, NMVOC and NH<sub>3</sub>, as well as some figures for primary PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions (as ceilings or percentage reduction versus a reference year) to allow the delegates to conduct consultations in their capitals in preparation of the final negotiations at the December 2011 session of EB.
- To choose one ELV option for each stationary source within stationary source categories which should be in line with the corresponding BAT.
- To choose one option for the different ammonia sources in agriculture as listed in the draft revised annex IX submitted by the TF on Reactive Nitrogen to cover as far as possible the ammonia emissions from agriculture.

As to the countries in Eastern-Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), I would greatly appreciate if the delegates could clearly specify their positions related to the BAT approach and the resulting ELVs and how they see the clean-up work of the existing polluting installations. Several informal discussion with interpretation will be organized during the WGSR meeting to facilitate the exchange of information and the common understanding between delegations.

At its 48<sup>th</sup> session the WGSR recalled the need for a formal proposal by a Party to amend the Protocol in accordance with article 13, and noted that in line with the advice provided by the Ad hoc group of legal experts on procedural requirements (Informal document No. 26) such proposal should be submitted to the secretariat as soon as possible but at any event no later than 12 August 2011. As far as I know no submission were done in time. It means the WGSR should envisage any further procedural way to fulfill its task.

Item 5 of the provisional agenda: Options for revising the Protocol on Heavy Metals

The work will proceed according to the mandate of WGRS to negotiate a revised Protocol on Heavy Metals as decided by the Executive Body at its 27<sup>th</sup> session in December 2009 and taking into account the priorities agreed to by the EB28 in December 2010. The objective is to report on its progress to the 29<sup>th</sup> session of EB in 2011 and to present proposed amendments to the Protocol to the Parties for adoption at the 30<sup>th</sup> EB session in 2012, at the latest. At the September 2011 meeting, we will continue with the treatment of the mercury-containing products and the rest of the Protocol, as far as we can within the available time.

Item 6 of the provisional agenda: Options for revising the Protocol on POPs

According to the annotated agenda. As far as I know Canada intend to provide a submission for consideration under this item before the WGRS meeting in September. It means we may have to discuss again some part of the recommendations of September 2010.

The tasks and time schedule ahead are very challenging but it is only through setting ambitious targets that we can achieve improvements of the air quality all over UNECE region.

Yours sincerely,  
Richard Ballaman