

Note from the Co-chairs of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen:

Status of UNECE National Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Reduction of Ammonia Emissions

1. As part of the original Gothenburg Protocol which came into force on the 17 May 2005 parties committed under Annex IX, part A “Advisory code of good agricultural practice”, hereafter “National Ammonia Code” (NAC):

“Paragraph 3. Within one year from the date of entry into force of the present Protocol for it, a Party shall establish, publish and disseminate an advisory code of good agricultural practice to control ammonia emissions. The code shall take into account the specific conditions within the territory of the Party and shall include provisions on:

 - Nitrogen management, taking account of the whole nitrogen cycle;
 - Livestock feeding strategies;
 - Low-emission manure spreading techniques;
 - Low-emission manure storage systems;
 - Low-emission animal housing systems; and
 - Possibilities for limiting ammonia emissions from the use of mineral fertilizers.

Parties should give a title to the code with a view to avoiding confusion with other codes of guidance.”
2. According to the revised EU National Emission Ceiling Directive (yet to be formally adopted), all EU member states *“shall establish a national advisory code of good agricultural practice to control ammonia emissions, taking into account the 2014 UNECE Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions...”* (Annex III, Part 2)¹.
3. Until 2010 information was collected every two years on the status of meeting the requirement under the Gothenburg Protocol. Since 2013 it was agreed to adopt an alternative approach, promoting information sharing within WGSR (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/8) (EB Decision 2013/2).
4. The experience of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen on this matter can be summarized under two headings:
 - a. At its meeting of November 2014 (Edinburgh, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2015/2), based on the strategies and policies questionnaire, it was found that many parties still needed to establish and publish their NAC. Based on the strategies and policies questionnaire responses for 2010, the TFRN co-chairs concluded that only around 10 of out 25 ratified signatories of the Gothenburg Protocol had more-or-less met the requirement of Annex IX to publish a NAC. The TFRN co-chairs considered this to be

¹ Revision of Directive 2001/81/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on National Emission Ceilings for certain pollutants.

a rather low number considering that this is a mandatory requirement of the Gothenburg Protocol.

- b. Following the adoption of EB decision 2013/2, there is no longer an overview of the further progress by Parties in establishing the NACs. Such information would be useful for TFRN, in accordance with its mandate, to continue, as necessary, to regularly updating the Guidance document on control techniques and the Framework advisory code on good agricultural practice (Decision 2007/1, para. 4 d). It would also provide a means for WGSR and the EB to assess Parties' implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol in this area.
5. Subject to its available resources, the TFRN remains committed to supporting parties in meeting the goal to publish and disseminate the NACs. To this end the TFRN proposes the following actions:
 - a. To organize a special one-day segment on "Air pollution and agriculture" to be held as part of the Working Group's 55th session (Geneva, 31 May – 2 June 2017). This segment could be organized back-to-back with the annual meeting of TFRN to ensure that Task Force members, in addition to the HoD to the WGSR will be present.
 - b. WGSR could mandate the TFRN to collect updated information on the national implementation by Parties of the mandatory requirement to publish and disseminate NACs well in advance of the special segment.
 - c. To publish a short informative glossy report on the status of progress in implementing the NACs, on the basis of the information collected. An 8 page document is envisaged (see below) with the aim to have this ready for May 2017 in time for the next WGSR.
 - d. To continue to highlight its willingness, within available resources, to support the countries in further implementing the NACs, and especially in adapting where necessary the Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practices (Ammonia Framework Code)², which can form a basis for the NACs.
 6. Proposed Structure of the TFRN Publication on NACs. The following outline is provisionally proposed of the glossy publication (total length, circa 8 pages):
 - a. Executive Summary (1/2 page bullet points)
 - b. Relation of the Ammonia Framework Code to the National Ammonia Codes (1.5 pages)
 - c. Description of a few good examples (success stories 2 pages + images)
 - d. Summary of the status of compliance (including Table of what is so far in place the NACs by Party) (1 page text, 1 page table)

² The Ammonia Framework Code has been designed to support Parties in establishing or updating their national advisory codes of good agricultural practice to control ammonia emissions, as required by annex IX to the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, and its 2012 amendment. It is available from: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41358>