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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fortieth session

Geneva, 17–20 September 2007

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

**REVISED ACTION PLAN FOR EASTERN EUROPE,
CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA**

Note by the secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-seventh session, the Working Group on Strategies and Review agreed on an Action Plan to Involve Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) countries in the work of the Convention (EB.AIR/WG.5/80, annex). At its thirty-ninth session, the Working Group agreed that the Action Plan for EECCA should be revised in line with the recommendations of the “Saltsjöbaden III” workshop held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in March 2007 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/9), and invited the secretariat, in collaboration with the Bureau of the Working Group, to present a revised version at the Working Group’s fortieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/86).

2. This note presents the revised action plan.

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I. ACTION PLAN

1. Raise the political profile of the Convention activities in the region, through the following actions:

(a) Hold a high-level meeting on transboundary pollution in 2009, in connection with the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention (Action: Executive Body, EECCA countries);

(b) Assure political commitment at the ministerial level by agreement on priority air pollution problems, the need for international cooperation, the steps to be taken, and who to involve (Action: Executive Body, EECCA countries);

(c) Create awareness of potential health and environment problems in EECCA, as well as of the nature of transboundary influences and links with other environmental problems, by compiling national and international expert reports (Action: Working Group on Effects jointly with the World Health Organization);

(d) Highlight the importance of particulate matter (in particular PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) (Action: Executive Body, EECCA countries);

(e) Initiate studies on health and environmental effects, as necessary, for considering these effects in the development of abatement strategies (Action: Executive Body, EECCA countries);

(f) Highlight the high benefit-to-costs ratio for air pollution measures (Action: Executive Body, EECCA countries);

(g) Consider the possible co-benefits from climate change policies in the development and implementation of air pollution measures (Action: Executive Body, EECCA countries).

2. Encourage ratification of the protocols, in particular the EMEP Protocol, the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol, through the following actions:

(a) Use the EMEP Protocol as an important first step for all countries for achieving major benefits from cooperation with the Convention's programme centres and other Parties (Action: EECCA countries);

(b) Develop a ratification process with recommended technical annexes or flexible time schedules for compliance; as relaxing the provisions of existing protocols would require amendments, this might be best addressed during the revision of the protocols (Action: Working Group on Strategies and Review, Executive Body);

(c) Support the EECCA countries at various stages of the ratification processes (Action: secretariat, donors);

(d) Using the synergies with the ratification of the Stockholm Convention, help countries ratify the Protocol on POPs; (Action: Convention secretariat, EECCA countries);

(e) Analyse the option of applying the pollution emissions management area (PEMA) of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol (Action: EECCA countries).

3. Increase the cooperation and exchange of information through expanding the modelling and monitoring activities:

(a) Expand the EMEP monitoring network; (Action: EECCA countries, EMEP Chemical Coordinating Centre, donors);

(b) Provide practical, methodological support and capacity-building (including assessment of resources needed) for the establishment of new stations and programmes in relation to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects activities (Action: Working Group on Effects, EMEP Steering Body, EECCA countries);

(c) Provide high-quality emission data and other input data needed for integrated assessment modelling (Action: EECCA countries);

(d) Extend the EMEP modelling domain (Action: EMEP Meteorological Synthesizing Centres-West and -East).

4. Support the EECCA countries involvement in the activities of the Convention through the following actions:

(a) Make more material available in Russian (Action: Executive Body, Convention secretariat, EECCA countries);

(b) Organize joint activities/workshops for EECCA countries on important technical issues such as emission inventories, PM measurements, ecosystem monitoring, and emission monitoring, with the participation of both decision-makers and specialists (Action: Executive Body, Convention secretariat, EECCA countries);

(c) Use the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East as a facilitator in the implementation of the Action Plan for EECCA;

(d) Carry out a regular review of the implementation of the action plan (Action: Executive Body).
