

Decision 2018/1

Updated methods and procedures for the technical reviews of air pollutant emission inventories reported under the Convention

The Executive Body,

1. *Recalling* that at its twenty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/91) the Executive Body adopted the note on methods and procedures for the technical review of air pollutant inventories reported under the Convention and its protocols (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/16) prepared by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections;
2. *Recognizing* the importance of the continued improvement of the emission inventory review process for the work of the Convention;
3. *Noting* the work carried out by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections on assessing the existing methods and procedures for the technical review of air pollutant inventories and updating them;
4. *Recalling* that the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) at its fourth joint session with the Working Group on Effects, considered the updated methods and procedures submitted by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and decided to forward them to the Executive Body for consideration at its thirty-eighth session:
 - (a) *Adopts* the Updated methods and procedures for the technical reviews of air pollutant emission inventories reported under the Convention as contained in the annex to this decision;
 - (b) *Requests* the Steering Body to EMEP to assess progress on the implementation of the Updated methods and procedures at its annual sessions;
 - (c) *Requests* the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections to review and, if necessary, further update the document on a five-yearly basis (in line with the inventory review cycle) as considered necessary by the Parties.

Annex

Updated methods and procedures for the technical reviews of air pollutant emission inventories reported under the Convention

I. Introduction

1. This note describes updated methods and procedures for the technical reviews of the air pollution emission inventories reported by Parties to the Convention and its protocols in line with their emission reporting obligations. It has been prepared by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections. It updates the note prepared by the Task Force on methods and procedures for the technical review of air pollutant inventories reported under the Convention and its protocols (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/16) adopted by the Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/91). Appendix to the document defines the process for “Technical Revisions”, whereby Parties being reviewed can submit “Revised Estimates” or the Expert Review Teams (ERTs) may calculate “Technical Corrections”. The Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) at its fourth joint session with the Working Group on Effects, approved this document and decided to forward it to the Executive Body for consideration and adoption at its thirty-eighth session.

2. At its 2015 meeting, the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections discussed potential improvements to the existing emission inventory review process. The discussion identified several potential improvements to help streamline and strengthen the robustness of the current review process. The EMEP Steering Body, at its September 2015 session, requested the Task Force to assess existing procedures and provide proposals for their improvement. Following discussions at its 2016 meeting, the Task Force prepared an updated methods and procedures document designed to replace the outdated 2007 “Methods and Procedures” guidance (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/16). This was presented at the 2016 session of the EMEP Steering Body. The Steering Body decided to trial this guidance across 2017 and 2018 and also requested the Task Force to add a process for “Technical Revisions”. The guidance on Technical Revisions was presented at the third joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (in 2017) and has subsequently been incorporated into this version of the updated Methods and Procedures guidance. The key changes compared to document ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/16 are:

(a) A significant shortening of the text. A significant amount of the existing text is outdated and no longer relevant;

(b) Inclusion of the possibility to increase the frequency of In-depth (Stage 3) reviews for Parties where significant quality issues are found by the ERTs (para 25). This was one of the recommendations from the Task Force 2015 meeting and is designed to ensure to help ensure in such instances that the findings and recommendations identified by the ERT are implemented and reviewed as soon as possible;

(c) A process for “Technical Revisions”, whereby Parties being reviewed can submit “Revised Estimates” or the ERTs may calculate “Technical Corrections” where reported data is found to be inconsistent with the recommended methodologies of the EMEP/European Environment Agency air pollutant emission inventory guidebook (EMEP/EEA Guidebook) or where emission estimates are not provided for a Nomenclature for Reporting (NFR) source category (para 7(h); 30(j)).

3. The document aims to promote consistency in the review of the Parties' data submissions and to establish a process for a thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of national inventories. The emission inventory review will check and assess Parties' data submissions to ensure that the Convention bodies have available adequate and reliable information on annual inventories and emissions trends and to enhance the quality of emission data and associated information reported to the Convention. The review also seeks to achieve a common approach to prioritizing and monitoring inventory improvements under the Convention with those of other organizations with similar interests such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the European Union with respect to the National Emission Ceilings Directive.¹ The review process is intended to be transparent and carried out in close cooperation with national experts. The scope of the annual review will depend on resources made available by EMEP.

II. Review approach

4. The "Updated methods and procedures for the technical reviews of air pollutant emission inventories reported under the Convention" apply only to Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP, as defined in the 1984 Protocol on Long-term Financing of EMEP, including those Parties whose respective national territories have a part that overlaps with the EMEP emissions reporting grid and another part lying outside the EMEP domain.

5. The technical review process will be in three stages, performed sequentially. At each stage, national experts will have the opportunity to clarify issues or provide additional information related to their inventory. They may also provide feedback on the review process at meetings of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections.

6. Parties to the Convention submit air pollution emission data annually to the EMEP Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP). Submissions consist of both quantitative and qualitative information. Quantitative data should be reported using the EMEP reporting templates and in line with the Convention's Emissions and Projections Reporting Guidelines (ECE/EB.AIR/125).² Qualitative data, including methodologies used in calculating emissions, should be included in informative inventory reports (IIR) in line with the Reporting Guidelines.

7. The three stages of the annual review are:

- (a) *Stage 1*: An initial check of the submission for timeliness and completeness;
- (b) *Stage 2*: An extended review of the submission with respect to consistency and comparability of data;
- (c) *Stage 3*: In-depth reviews of selected national inventories as specified in the annual work plan agreed by the Executive Body; these may be annual centralized reviews or ad hoc reviews. These reviews assess consistency of the submission with the Reporting Guidelines and EMEP/EEA Guidebook, and provide recommendations on improvements to Parties.

III. Responsibilities for the Review Process

8. Those responsible for the annual review process are:

¹ Directive 2016/2284.

² Guidelines for Reporting Emissions and Projections Data under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/125).

(a) *Parties' designated emission experts*, who shall calculate emissions and respond to review questions and comments as well as make available any additional information required for the review process;

(b) *Parties to the Convention*, who shall nominate review expert(s) for the In-depth (Stage 3) review and provide the necessary resources to enable the invited expert(s) to participate in the review. Parties shall inform CEIP of any changes to their list of previously nominated experts. Parties shall further inform CEIP of a national contact point to coordinate communications within each country during the In-depth (Stage 3) review;

(c) *The EMEP Steering Body*, which shall agree a schedule for Parties' reviews and include this in its annual work plan;

(d) *The Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections*, shall follow the review process and suggest potential solutions to any problems identified. The Task Force will propose recommendations to the EMEP Steering Body for further improvements in emission inventories and the review process e.g. informal guidance, templates etc.;

(e) *The Secretariat*. On behalf of the Executive Body, the secretariat shall invite Parties to nominate national reviewers with technical inventory expertise. The secretariat shall support CEIP in communication with countries as required;

(f) *CEIP, for the Initial (Stage 1) and Extended (Stage 2) reviews*, shall:

(i) Publish information submitted by Parties on the CEIP website;³

(ii) Facilitate the reporting and revision of emission data through maintaining and updating the EMEP database of submitted emissions and the interactive data checking tool (REPDAB);

(iii) Perform the Initial (Stage 1) review by making a check of each data submission providing feedback to the Parties' designated emission expert, drawing attention to missing data and to the Stage 1 results, and requesting re-submissions when necessary. The results of the Initial (Stage 1) review shall be published on the CEIP website by the end of April each year;

(iv) Perform the Extended (Stage 2) reviews, providing feedback to the Parties' designated emission expert. The results of the Extended (Stage 2) review shall be published on the CEIP website in May each year;

(v) Act as contact point for Parties' designated emission experts; communicate with Parties' experts throughout the review;

(vi) Prepare an annual overview of the Initial (Stage 1) and Extended (Stage 2) review findings and communicate them to Parties, the Task Force and other relevant bodies within EMEP.

(g) *CEIP, for the In-depth (Stage 3) reviews*:

(i) Act as contact point for Parties; and communicate with the nominated national contact points;

(ii) Maintain an up to date roster of eligible expert reviewers;

(iii) Submit an annual proposal to the EMEP Steering Body to suggest Parties to be reviewed;

³ www.ceip.at.

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- (iv) Invite reviewers and lead reviewers from the roster of experts to participate in the scheduled reviews each year;
 - (v) Prepare and make available data to be reviewed to the stage 3 ERT (see below) in an appropriate format;
 - (vi) Provide background material for the stage 3 review team's information, including the Initial (Stage 1) and Extended (Stage 2) review results, IIRs, previous review findings and other ad hoc review findings;
 - (vii) Organize centralized stage 3 review meetings (organize venues and timing for the meetings);
 - (viii) Edit and publish the In-depth (Stage 3) review reports based upon input provided by the ERT, and communicate the results to the Parties and EMEP Steering Body;
 - (ix) Prepare an overview of review findings, indicating priorities for improvements; forward it for consideration by the Parties' designated experts, EMEP and the Task Force.
 - (h) *The In-depth (Stage 3) ERT shall:*
 - (i) Carry out the stage 3 reviews in order to assess whether the submissions reported by Parties are consistent with the requirements of the Reporting Guidelines and methodologies of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook. Questions to national experts shall be prepared by the ERT to clarify technical questions identified during the review;
 - (ii) Where reported data is found to be inconsistent with the recommended methodologies of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook or where emission estimates are not provided for an NFR source category, the ERT shall calculate technical corrections;
 - (iii) Prepare a draft review report for each Party reviewed using an agreed template, describing the findings of the In-Depth (Stage 3) review including recommendations for improvements, and clearly describing the justification for and methodological details of any technical correction(s) performed;
 - (iv) Taking into account comments from Parties, finalise the review report findings;
 - (v) The members of the ERT will be invited by CEIP from the roster of review experts as follows: (a) For the annual In-depth (Stage 3) review: typically the ERT will consist of one or two lead reviewers and one or two experts per main sector (energy and transport, industrial processes, solvents, waste, and agriculture); (b) For ad hoc reviews (see para. 17): invited national experts from the roster of experts, representatives of EMEP centres and/or other experts, as appropriate. For example, the focus of the review could be a defined sector, rather than defined countries. The composition of the ERT would then need to reflect this specific focus; (c) The head of CEIP, or his/her representatives, shall support the ERT, but shall not be formally a member of the ERT.

IV. Review of Annual Submissions

A. Initial (Stage 1) review

9. CEIP shall conduct the initial check of the submission noting the timeliness, completeness, adherence to the correct format, and summarize these findings to the Parties.

It will request re-submissions as needed and prepare summary of the results for presentation to EMEP and the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections.

10. The annual timetable for the Initial (Stage 1) review shall be as follows:

(a) CEIP will publish on its website country-specific findings within two weeks of the date of receipt of the submission;

(b) The national designated emission experts may provide comments on the findings to CEIP within two weeks of their receipt;

(c) Re-submissions due to error or modification should be received within four weeks from the original due date for submission. Late resubmissions (i.e. later than four weeks from the due date for submission) may not be included in the annual inventory review or EMEP modelling exercises or included in the EMEP emissions database.

B. Extended (Stage 2) review

11. CEIP will carry out a more detailed assessment of the submitted data, focusing upon:

(a) An overview of the key category analysis per country;

(b) Review of comparability between inventories, inter alia, on the basis of implied emission factors and sector and national totals in other reported inventories (e.g. emissions reported under the European Union's National Emissions Ceilings Directive and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change);

(c) Assessment of completeness and consistency of the time series;

(d) Checks against previously reported inventories for recalculations and changed estimates to determine whether methods and data have been applied consistently across the latest time series.

12. CEIP shall provide a summary of findings from the Extended (Stage 2) review to Parties, including country-specific questions to Parties where appropriate. A summary of the results shall be prepared for presentation to EMEP and the Task Force.

13. The annual timetable for the Extended (Stage 2) review shall be as follows:

(a) CEIP will publish on its website Stage 2 country-specific findings within four weeks of the date of receipt of the submission;

(b) The national designated emission experts may provide comments to CEIP within two weeks of their receipt.

C. In-depth (Stage 3) review

1. Background

14. Following completion of the Initial (Stage 1) and Extended (Stage 2) review checks, an In-depth (Stage 3) review may be performed by the ERT as part of the annual review process. An ad hoc review may be performed to focus on specific aspects of inventory data quality or science.

15. The purpose of the In-depth (Stage 3) review is to examine in detail, and in a transparent manner, the reported inventory information for consistency with the Reporting Guidelines and the EMEP/EEA Guidebook, providing recommendations for improvement and where appropriate calculation of technical corrections. This will:

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- (a) Assist Parties to improve the quality of their emission inventories;
 - (b) Ensure that the Convention has adequate and reliable information on annual inventories and emission trends of anthropogenic emissions by sources;
 - (c) Advise Parties and the Centres on gaps and revisions needed in country data;
 - (d) Inform the work of the Implementation Committee by providing an objective, consistent, transparent and comprehensive technical assessment of the annual quantitative and qualitative inventory information submitted by Parties.

16. The In-depth (Stage 3) review will normally take place as a “centralized review” i.e. the ERT members will perform initial checks of the data and prepare questions to Parties, prior to meeting for finalising the review of the inventory information of Parties.

17. In-depth (Stage 3) reviews can only be performed when Parties have submitted an IIR.

18. Ad hoc reviews may be organized as “desk reviews”, centralized reviews or in-country reviews, as appropriate. Such ad hoc reviews could, for instance, focus on specific source sectors, specific pollutants such as heavy metals or persistent organic pollutants, gridded and projections data, or on other areas as requested by the Implementation Committee. Where appropriate, ad hoc reviews could be conducted in line with the present Methods and Procedures for the In-depth (Stage 3) review.

19. The review of other data, which is officially reported under the Convention, such as gridded data, projections and large point source data, should be performed regularly, at a minimum four-yearly to coincide with the reporting frequency. These reviews shall be carried out by the EMEP Centres that are the key users of these data.

2. Pollutants

20. The annual stage 3 review will focus on the main air pollutants (nitrogen oxides, non-methane volatile organic compounds, ammonia, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and sulphur dioxide).

21. Other pollutants, for which reporting is required under the Reporting Guidelines i.e. priority heavy metals (cadmium, lead and mercury), particulate matter (black carbon, particles with an aerodynamic diameter equal to or less than 10 micrometres (PM₁₀) and total suspended particulate matter (TSP)), persistent organic pollutants (dioxins and furans (PCDD/F)), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)) shall also be reviewed as resources allow.

22. Activity data relevant to the pollutants will be assessed in addition to the emission estimates.

3. Sectors

23. The review shall cover all the NFR emission source categories relevant for each of the pollutants under review.

24. The review should focus particularly on the key categories for a Party. This will include an assessment of the reported and potential other key categories for Parties. The review will assess whether or not such sources were included and evaluate the methods used for estimating these emissions. The scope of the review shall also cover the reported “memo” items.

4. Frequency

25. All Parties should be reviewed at a minimum, every 5 years.

26. If significant quality issues are identified by the ERT in its In-depth (Stage 3) review findings for a Party, the ERT may propose to the EMEP Steering Body that a more frequent review period be undertaken for the Party concerned. Informed by the ERT's findings, the EMEP Steering Body shall agree upon the future review frequency for the Party e.g. annual or two-yearly, with the aim of helping ensure the findings and recommendations identified by the ERT are implemented and reviewed as soon as possible.

27. The Implementation Committee may request a review be performed for a particular Party.

5. Years to review

28. The review of historic emissions data shall focus on the emissions reported by Parties for a protocol base year and the latest year for which data are available and the years that are relevant for demonstrating compliance with emission ceilings and emission reduction commitments (which includes a protocol base year). A focus shall be on ensuring a consistent approach has been taken in estimating emissions for these respective years. In addition, time series consistency checks should be carried out for all years reported as required in the Reporting Guidelines or in individual protocols to the Convention.

6. Procedures

Tasks and responsibilities for the ERTs

29. Stage 3 ERTs, coordinated by the CEIP, will conduct reviews of reported national emission inventories in order to assess whether the Convention has adequate and reliable information. The individual reviews will provide a detailed examination of the inventory estimates, procedures and methodologies used in the preparation of inventories, covering each Party's national inventory submission, supplementary material submitted by the Party, and previous inventory submissions, as appropriate. The results of the In-depth (Stage 3) review will be communicated to Parties through their nominated national experts.

30. ERTs should pay particular attention to those areas of the inventory where problems have been identified in the Initial (Stage 1) and Extended (Stage 2) review stages, findings from previous Stage 3 reviews, or where a Party has reported recalculated estimates.

31. ERT shall:

(a) Examine the application of the Reporting Guidelines and the EMEP/EEA Guidebook and identify non-compliance with these requirements;

(b) Examine whether the good practice guidance of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook has been applied and documented in the IIR, in particular in relation to transparency, noting the identification of key categories, selection and use of methodologies and assumptions, development and selection of emission factors, collection and selection of activity data, reporting of recalculations and consistent time-series and quality assurance and quality control procedures, and identify any inconsistencies;

(c) Compare emission estimates, activity data, implied emission factors and any recalculations with data from previous submissions, to identify any irregularities or inconsistencies;

(d) Identify any missing sources and examine any explanatory information relating to their exclusion from the inventory;

(e) Identify the reasons for any differences between a Party's and the EMEP emission centre's key category determination;

(f) Assess the consistency of information in the reporting tables with that in the IIR;

(g) Assess the extent to which issues raised in stages 1 and 2, as well as issues and questions raised by ERTs in previous reports, in other ad-hoc reviews, or identified by the Task Force or Implementation Committee, have been addressed and resolved;

(h) Identify areas for further improvement of the inventories and note possible ways for improving the estimation and the reporting of inventory information;

(i) Consider the entire inventory process from the collection of data to the reported emission estimates and examine procedures and institutional arrangements for inventory development and management, including quality assurance and quality control, record-keeping and documentation procedures;

(j) Consider “Technical Revisions”, which may result in Parties submitting “Revised Estimates”, or the ERT calculating “Technical Corrections”. The procedure for this is included as Appendix;

(k) The ERT may use other relevant technical information in the review process, such as information from national and international organizations.

32. The Task Force together with CEIP may develop further informal guidance for reviewers.

Methods and procedures for the review teams

33. Each inventory submission will be assigned to an ERT that will be responsible for conducting the review in accordance with the procedures and time frames established. A submission by a Party will not be reviewed in two successive reviews by ERTs with an identical composition.

34. Each ERT will provide a thorough and comprehensive technical assessment of the inventory information submitted and will, under its collective responsibility, prepare a review report in accordance with the provisions given in this document.

35. ERTs will be coordinated by CEIP, which will provide administrative support, and, as appropriate, technical and methodological assistance, as well as assistance in the use of the Reporting Guidelines and the present document on review “Methods and Procedures”.

36. ERTs will be composed of experts from the roster of experts nominated by Parties. Participating experts will serve in their personal capacity and will neither be nationals of a Party under review, have contributed to the compilation of the emission inventory of the Party under review, nor be nominated or funded by a Party under review.

37. In the conduct of the review, ERTs shall work on the basis of established and published procedures, including quality assurance and control and confidentiality.

38. CEIP will notify Parties about upcoming centralized reviews to identify the contact person(s) through whom enquiries can be directed.

39. Communication between the ERTs and the designated emission expert of the Party under review should be through the lead reviewers or CEIP. Other members of the ERT may communicate directly with the national experts involved in the inventory preparation only if a Party so agrees. Information thus obtained should be made available to other members of the team.

ERT composition

40. Participating experts shall have experience in the area of compiling and/or reviewing long-range transboundary air pollution inventories in general and/or in specific sectors (energy and transport; industrial processes; solvents and other products use, waste; and agriculture).

41. ERTs may vary in size and composition, taking into account the national circumstances of the Parties under review and the different expertise needed for the specified scope of the review. In general, the normal size of an ERT should be six to eight experts for a centralized review (one to two experts per inventory sector plus one to two lead reviewers). An ERT for an ad hoc review may be smaller, and may focus on specific source sectors, pollutants or other aspects of the emissions inventory.

42. CEIP shall invite members of the ERT from the roster of experts in a way that will ensure that the collective skills of a team address the sectors mentioned above and that most experts in a team have the necessary experience in the review process. ERT members shall also be selected with a view to achieving a balance between experts from Parties with different inventories and national circumstances in the overall composition of the ERTs, without compromising the selection criteria referred to above. CEIP shall make every effort to ensure geographical balance among those experts selected.

Lead reviewers

43. For each ERT, 1 or 2 inventory experts with substantial inventory review experience will serve as lead reviewers.

44. Lead reviewers should ensure that the review in which they participate is conducted in line with the methods and procedures indicated in the present document and that the ERT carries out the reviews consistently across all Parties under review. They should also ensure the quality and the objectivity of the technical assessments in the reviews.

45. With the support of CEIP, lead reviewers shall:

- (a) Prepare a brief work plan for the review activity;
- (b) Verify that the experts have all the necessary information provided by CEIP prior to the review activity;
- (c) Ensure that there is good communication within the ERT;
- (d) Monitor the progress of the review activity;
- (e) Coordinate queries of the ERT to the Party's designated emission expert and coordinate the inclusion of the answers in the review reports;
- (f) Provide technical advice to the ERT members and ad hoc experts, if needed;
- (g) Verify that the ERT gives priority to individual source categories for review in accordance with these guidelines;
- (h) Ensure that the review is performed in accordance with these guidelines;
- (i) Have responsibility for the compilation of the review reports in line with the agreed template and submit the draft reports to CEIP;
- (j) Assist CEIP with the finalisation of the review reports following receipt of any country.

7. Review reports

46. Under its collective responsibility, the ERT will produce for each reviewed country a review report for publication in electronic format on the CEIP website based on the results of the tasks listed above. The review reports should contain an objective assessment of the adherence of the inventory information to the Reporting Guidelines and should not contain any political judgement.

47. The report should be as concise as possible, focussing on particular strengths and identified problems, as well as on an overall appraisal of the quality and reliability of the inventory, emission trends, actual emission factors and activity data, the degree of adherence to the Reporting Guidelines and the EMEP/EEA Guidebook, improvement recommendations, and providing details of any identified technical corrections.

48. The review report shall also provide an overview of key review findings including:

(a) A summary including assessment of mandatory reporting requirements, timeliness, formats, completed tables;

(b) Key issues related to data quality, such as an assessment of transparency, major issues relating to completeness and use of methods, major inconsistencies in time series, issues with recalculations, and an overview of identified technical corrections;

(c) A summary of identified recommendations and how these relate to the inventory quality criteria defined in the Reporting Guidelines i.e. transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness or accuracy;

(d) Justification and details of any identified technical corrections;

(e) Where significant quality issues are identified by the ERT, a proposal to the EMEP Steering Body for a more frequent review period e.g. yearly, two-yearly.

49. The main body report shall detail the review findings and recommendations to the Party, including:

(a) Inventory system and quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) recommendations;

(b) Sector specific recommendations for inventory improvements;

(c) The detailed technical basis upon which technical corrections have been estimated.

8. Review timetable and communication with parties

50. Annual centralized review: Each ERT shall prepare the draft individual review reports within eight weeks after the end of the review. CEIP shall edit and format the reports before sending them to the respective Party's nominated contact point for comments. The Party shall respond within four weeks. The ERT shall integrate the comments by the Party within six weeks and send the revised versions of the reports to the CEIP.

51. Ad hoc reviews: Each ERT shall prepare the draft review reports in accordance with a decided timetable.

52. The final reports will be published on the CEIP website. CEIP will inform Parties' contact points and the secretariat on the status of annual review. The secretariat will communicate with Parties' representatives in the EMEP Steering Body, and with the Implementation Committee.

53. CEIP shall inform the EMEP Steering Body on the status of the review and of the ERT findings in instances where technical corrections have been identified and/or a more frequent review period for a Party has been recommended.

Appendix

Technical Revisions

I. Introduction

1. Including Technical Revisions in the review process allows the ERT to work in a capacity building role with Parties to quantify necessary corrections to the national inventory where reported data are found to be inconsistent with the recommended methodologies of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook or where emission estimates are not provided for an NFR source category.
2. The objective of the Technical Revisions process is to establish improvements in completeness, consistency, comparability and accuracy of the reported emissions data from Parties.
3. Where reported data are found to be inconsistent with the Convention reporting requirements, and in particular the recommended methodologies of the most recent version of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook, or where emission estimates are not provided for an NFR source category, the ERT liaise with the Party to understand the issue in detail. Where necessary the ERT work with the Party to quantify the extent to which emissions might be corrected to ensure best practice and compliance with the Convention reporting requirements.
4. If the ERT considers that emissions are significantly under or overestimated, then during the review, the Party is invited to submit “Revised Estimates” that address the issue raised. Should the Party decline to do this, or quantification of the Revised Estimates cannot be agreed, then the ERT may calculate a “Technical Correction” in the absence of an updated emission estimate being provided by the Party itself.
5. Revised Estimates and Technical Corrections (whether agreed with the Party or not) will be included in the country specific review reports which are provided to the EMEP Steering Body. The final reports will be published on the CEIP website.
6. Technical Revisions shall apply to all relevant years of the full-time series of national emission estimates.
7. As is outlined in the agreed “Emission Review Guidelines”, CEIP will inform Parties’ contact points and the Convention secretariat on the status of annual review. The secretariat will communicate with Parties’ representatives in the EMEP Steering Body, and with the Implementation Committee.

II. The Process of Determining and Calculating Technical Revisions

8. The following provides a summary of the process by which Technical Revisions are determined. Dates and deadlines for each stage will be issued before the beginning of each review, and resource constraints may limit the work that is possible. A Technical Revision may be relevant for more than one emission source category, the whole time-series or for a selected year, and may also be applicable for more than one pollutant:

During the Desk Review or Centralised Review Week

- (a) During an emissions inventory review (“desk” or “centralised” sections of the review), the ERT highlights an observation and issues questions to the Party. The ERT

mentions in their questioning whether this could relate to a “significant”⁴ over or under estimate, and hence a possible Technical Revision;

(b) The Party responds with clarifications and/or answers. The Party can provide a justification for their existing estimate or propose a Revised Estimate that addresses the issue raised by the ERT. The Revised Estimate may span several sources, several pollutants, and be relevant for multiple years;

(c) If the ERT agrees with the Party’s response (i.e. a valid justification or Revised Estimate calculated and provided by the Party) the issue is considered closed and a recommendation is made in the Party’s review report i.e. that the updated estimate should be included in the Party’s next annual inventory submission. However, should the ERT not be able to reach agreement with the Party, then the ERT will calculate a Technical Correction which is sent to the Party for comment;

Following the Centralised Review Week

(d) After the centralised review week, a Party can respond to indicate that they agree with the proposed Technical Correction. The issue is then dealt with as for a Revised Estimate. Alternatively, a Party can respond that they disagree with the Technical Correction proposed by the ERT and provide a justification for their position;

(e) If the ERT do not agree with the information provided by the Party (or no response is provided), they inform the Party, and include the Technical Correction in the draft review report that is sent to the Party;

Following the Compilation of the Draft Review Report

(f) The Party will have the opportunity to respond to the ERT’s conclusions in the draft review report;

(g) The ERT will make a final decision on whether to include the Technical Correction in the final review report;

(h) The final review report will be provided to the EMEP Steering Body and made available to the Implementation Committee, as explained in paragraphs 5 and 6 above.

III. Quantification of a Technical Revision

9. *Definition and use of the Threshold of Significance:* A set of thresholds of significance for pollutants included in the reviews will be established by the ERTs and CEIP review secretariat.⁵ This set of thresholds will be used for a five-year period and will be communicated to the Parties before the commencement of the reviews. After this five year period, the default thresholds will be reviewed by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and CEIP, and may be updated in view of emission inventories improvement. Different metrics may be used for the threshold(s) (e.g. a percentage of the national total, an absolute value etc.). CEIP, in consultation with the lead reviewers, may decide to deviate from the default set of thresholds in a specific review year (for all or several Parties under review) to adjust for the assigned level of resources for the review process in that year, in view of the quality of the emission inventories under review or other circumstances deemed

⁴ The term “significant” is defined by the use of a threshold of significance. See Section C. Quantification of a Technical Revision.

⁵ For the Member States of the European Union, the thresholds of significance established for the review of the national emission inventory data in accordance with article 10(3) of the European Union Directive 2016/2284 will apply.

as exceptional. Any such deviation shall be clearly explained in advance of the review, and in the review report.

(a) *Exceedance*: Should the impact of an issue raised during the review (aggregated across all relevant sources) exceed the threshold of significance, then either a Revised Estimate or a Technical Correction will be required;

(b) *Non-exceedance*: Should the aggregated impact of an issue raised during the review not exceed the threshold of significance, then the ERT will make a recommendation for improvement to be addressed in the next version of the emissions inventory, unless the Lead Reviewer considers there to be exceptional circumstances.

10. *Methodologies*: Technical Revisions will be calculated in consultation with the respective Party by using the default methodologies and emission factors (Tier 1 or Tier 2) provided in the most recent version of the EMEP/EEA Guidebook. Activity data will be taken from the Party's submission, the IIR, and/or other appropriate sources including national and international statistical organizations. A Tier 2 approach will be used for the calculation of Technical Corrections for key categories where this is possible. The ERT will document and justify cases where a Technical Correction cannot be performed, while making every effort to keep those cases to a minimum.

11. *Adjustment Applications*: Where a Technical Revision is required for a source, or sources, which are also involved in an Adjustment Application, the Technical Revision will be resolved first. The Adjustment Application may then require amendment. The Adjustment Application will be reviewed if resources permit. Technical Revisions may also change the national emission totals making a specific Adjustment Application no longer necessary. In this case the review of the Adjustment Application in question can be postponed awaiting the submission of the improved emission inventory and if necessary the recalculated adjustments in next year's reporting.