

Decision 2007/1
Establishment of a Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

The Executive Body,

Aware that the preamble of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol notes that “measures to reduce the emissions of nitrogen oxides and ammonia should involve consideration of the full biogeochemical nitrogen cycle and, so far as possible, not increase emissions of reactive nitrogen including nitrous oxide which could aggravate other nitrogen-related problems”,

Noting that demands for food and energy create reactive nitrogen compounds, which have led to growing concern on transboundary environmental issues,

Recognizing that different aspects of the nitrogen cycle are considered separately under different regulatory frameworks,

Also recognizing that the nitrogen cycle is multimedia in nature, and that it may be beneficial to have fully informed or coordinated regulatory frameworks to address various aspects and issues,

Recalling the conclusions of the Workshop on “Air pollution and its relations to climate change and sustainable development” held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in March 2007,

Considering that there are several technical and scientific bodies under the Convention already carrying out work on nitrogen,

Recognizing that improved coordination of activities across and outside the Convention could help address the problems of nitrogen under the Convention,

Understanding that further work as previously performed by the Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement may also be needed,

1. *Establishes* a Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen under the leadership of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, with the long-term goal of developing technical and scientific information, and options which can be used for strategy development across the UNECE to encourage coordination of air pollution policies on nitrogen in the context of

the nitrogen cycle and which may be used by other bodies outside the Convention in consideration of other control measures;

2. *Decides* that the Task Force will carry out the tasks specified for it in the workplan adopted annually by the Executive Body and will report thereon to the Working Group of Strategy and Review, but will also keep the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP¹ Steering Body informed of its activities; the Task Force will produce a full progress report to the September session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review in time for the twenty-eighth session of the Executive Body in 2010;

3. *Also decides* that the Task Force will be composed of experts from the Parties to the Convention. Each Party will be invited to nominate a focal point to the secretariat. Meetings of the Task Force will be open to designated representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations. The Chair(s) are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force;

4. *Further decides* that the functions of the Task Force will be:

(a) To plan and conduct, in collaboration with subsidiary bodies under the Convention, the technical work necessary to develop a better understanding of the integrated, multi-pollutant nature of reactive nitrogen, particularly in relation to air pollution in context of the nitrogen cycle for consideration in the work of the Working Group on Strategy and Review;

(b) To plan and conduct, in collaboration with subsidiary bodies under the Convention, the technical work necessary to assess emissions, transport, budgets, fluxes and effects of nitrogen for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

(c) To consider, in collaboration with subsidiary bodies under the Convention, how the work of the Task Force would complement the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, in particular the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and the Task Force on Modelling and Mapping, as well as that of other international bodies. The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen should make maximum use of such considerations to foster an understanding of, and make best use of, the synergies;

¹ The Cooperative Programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe.

(d) To continue, as necessary, the work of the former Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement on regular updating of the Guidance document on control techniques and the Framework advisory code on good agricultural practice, and to contribute to the improvements of the methodologies on the emission inventories and other activities as required;

(e) To carry out such other tasks related to the above work as the Executive Body may assign to it in the annual workplan.

5. *Decides* that the lead countries will assume the principal responsibility for coordinating the work of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for designating its Chair(s), for communications with participating experts, for reporting, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the workplan;

6. *Also decides* that, at the end of each meeting, the Task Force will approve a report that reflects all views relating to its deliberations on the tasks assigned to it by the Executive Body. The report will be finalized by the Chair(s) in consultation with the secretariat and distributed to the focal points nominated by the Parties to the Convention and to the observers and experts who were present at the meeting;

7. *Requests* other subsidiary bodies and programme centers under the Convention that are working on nitrogen to participate actively in the work of the Task Force;

8. *Urges* Parties to the Convention to nominate experts for the Task Force and to inform the secretariat of their names as soon as possible.