

**Comment from the TFEIP co-chairs concerning the status of the
EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory Guidebook**

September 2008

1. The European Commission has contracted consultants (TNO and AEA) to provide draft chapters for a revised EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook (the *Guidebook*). The work has been overseen by an advisory editorial group (AEG) comprising the TFEIP chair, the TFEIP expert panel leaders, representatives from the EMEP Centres, EGTEI, IPCC, the UN/ECE Secretariat, the EEA and the European Commission. The AEG was co-chaired by the EEA and TFEIP chair.
2. The draft final chapters delivered by the consultants were considered in detail by the TFEIP at its 9th joint TFEIP/EIONET meeting in Tallinn (May 2008), leading to the following general conclusions as noted in the report of the co-chairs of the TFEIP (ECE/EB.AIR.GE.1/2008/6):
 - the TFEIP welcomed the improvements made to the *Guidebook* and thanked the consultants funded by the European Commission for their contribution, and the experts for reviewing the updates;
 - the TFEIP thanked Germany and the Netherlands for funding additional work on heavy metals and on POPs in the *Guidebook*;
3. Of a total of 76 chapters, the majority were accepted by the TFEIP at its Tallinn meeting. The remaining chapters were conditionally accepted subject to a number of identified problems being addressed by the consultants. In order to check that these remaining issues were resolved, the TFEIP set up an open and voluntary “ad hoc” group with a mandate to subsequently verify, with the support of the expert panel leaders, that the problems identified by the TFEIP were properly addressed by the consultants, and on this basis, mandated the ad hoc group, on behalf of the Task Force, to recommend or not to the EMEP Steering Body the adoption of the *Guidebook*.
4. The ad hoc group produced a report of their findings on 21st July 2008. The group considered that the conditions stipulated by the TFEIP in Tallinn for acceptance of the remaining chapters were fulfilled for all chapters with the exception of 12 sectoral chapters.
5. Following discussion between the TFEIP co-chairs, the European Commission, the coordinator of the ad hoc group, the EEA and the consultants the following plan was developed with the aim of ensuring the remaining chapters will be accepted at the 10th joint TFEIP/EIONET meeting (Spring 2009):
 - the consultants will undertake a final consistency and language check for all *Guidebook* chapters;
 - the consultants will classify the remaining comments from the ad hoc group concerning the outstanding chapters into three categories: 1) items already addressed by the consultants over summer; 2) items relating to scientific updating, which are more appropriately dealt within the framework of a maintenance plan that will be developed by TFEIP (see point 7 below) and which will frame future updates of the *Guidebook*; 3) the remaining work necessary for the outstanding chapters to be considered consistent, comprehensive and complete;
 - this list will be discussed by the TFEIP co-chairs and expert panel leaders prior to the remaining issues for the 12 outstanding chapters being discussed at the 21st meeting of the TFEIP to be held in November 2008;
 - the consultants will subsequently undertake further work to address the identified problems associated with the outstanding chapters on the basis of advice from the TFEIP. This work will be completed by the end of December 2008, the end of their contractual period;
 - as a final step, the TFEIP and its expert panels may then, if necessary, make any amendments to these 12 outstanding chapters that they consider are required in order that the chapters can be accepted at the 10th joint TFEIP/EIONET meeting (Spring 2009).

6. An important aspect to take into consideration for the final adoption of the *Guidebook* is that the Emission Reporting Guidelines clearly state that Parties are encouraged to use better calculation methods and emission factor if available, which should be described in the Informative Inventory Report. The *Guidebook* therefore does not impose the use of fixed methods. Further improvement of methodologies is encouraged, will continue and should lead to further updating of the *Guidebook*. However, a consistent, comprehensive, complete and updated *Guidebook* needs to be in place for Parties that do not have more appropriate alternative methods available.
7. The TFEIP has repeatedly stated that future work after completion of the current *Guidebook* project is essential, for example to incorporate scientific updates. This is necessary so that the *Guidebook* continues to provide Parties with sound guidance to produce high quality emission inventories. On the basis of preparatory work of the consultants (in full accordance with the Commission's contract), the TFEIP will develop a maintenance plan for the *Guidebook*, defining responsibilities of all involved and a mechanism for identifying (and prioritising) chapters where such additional work is considered necessary.
8. Previous experience has shown that the individual members of the TFEIP cannot provide the financial resources needed for the necessary regular updating and improvement of the *Guidebook*. Therefore unless Parties to the Convention allocate specific resources to facilitate the future improvement of the *Guidebook*, it will again fall into a state of technical obsolescence. The EMEP Steering Body and/or individual Parties of the Convention are therefore requested to support the allocation of specific and regular funding to ensure the future quality of the *Guidebook*.