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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Twenty-seventh session
Geneva, 14–18 December 2009
Item 15 of the provisional agenda

2010 WORKPLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

**DRAFT 2010 WORKPLAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIES AND
REVIEW**

Note by the secretariat

1.1 STRATEGIES AND REVIEW

Description/objectives: To assess ongoing scientific and technical activities for the review of existing protocols or the preparation of new ones; to negotiate revisions of protocols, including their annexes; to promote the exchange of technology; and to prepare proposals for strategic developments under the Convention. The Working Group on Strategies and Review will assist the Executive Body in all policy-related issues.

Main activities and time schedule: Taking into account relevant activities under the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects, as well as the initiatives of the European

Community and other Parties, and on the basis of information received from its expert groups and task forces, the Working Group on Strategies and Review will, in particular:

(a) Continue negotiations, in accordance with article 3, paragraph 12, on the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol¹, based on recommendations by the Executive Body and on the conclusions of the Protocol review; and assess progress made in reducing acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone and the pollutants responsible for these effects, and in work carried out under items 1.3 (economic assessment) and 1.8 (reactive nitrogen) below. It will also review work carried out under item 2.3 (integrated assessment modelling) of the EMEP workplan;

(b) Assess work on the review of, and possible amendments to, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), taking into account progress under item 1.4 (review and assessment of POPs) and recommendations by the Executive Body;

(c) Assess work following the review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, taking into account progress under item 1.5 (review and assessment of heavy metals), based on recommendations by the Executive Body;

(d) Review progress made in the exchange of information and technology, including work carried out under item 1.6 (techno-economic issues); and also review information received on product-related measures to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), POPs and heavy metals as well as progress in other work carried out under item 1.7 (exchange of information and technology);

(e) Implement the revised Action Plan to involve the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in the work of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17);

(f) Develop, if necessary, a specific Action Plan to involve countries of South-Eastern Europe (SEE) in the work of the Convention;

(g) Encourage further ratifications and explore ways to support and facilitate countries' efforts towards the implementation and ratification of the protocols;

(h) Hold its forty-sixth session tentatively from 12 to 16 April and its forty-seventh session from 30 August to 3 September 2010.

¹ The 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.

1.2 REVIEWS OF STRATEGIES AND POLICIES FOR AIR POLLUTION ABATEMENT

Description/objectives: To create an overview of air pollution abatement in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, giving a comprehensive description of national and international strategies and policies, including legislation in force, emission levels and future priorities; and to provide, together with emission data, a basis for the Implementation Committee to review compliance by Parties with their obligations under the protocols to the Convention. Reviews for purposes of compliance are carried out every two years; a general policy review is carried out every four years.

Main activities and time schedule: A draft review of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement will be made available to the Executive Body in 2010. The draft review will be based on replies to the 2010 questionnaire, to be approved by the Executive Body at its twenty-seventh session and made available by the secretariat through the Convention's website; if approved by the Executive Body, the draft review will be published on the website of the Convention.

1.3 ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF BENEFITS FROM AIR POLLUTION ABATEMENT AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

Description/objectives: To develop further the work on benefits and economic instruments; and to enable economic considerations to be taken into account in the discussion/review of the protocols to the Convention.

Main activities and time schedule: The Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments, led by the United Kingdom with Norway as rapporteur, will provide the framework and expertise for a series of workshops. The Network will meet only on the occasion of planned workshops and will include not only economists but also representatives from other specialist groups. The Network will carry out work on assessing experiences of Parties in using economic instruments for reducing air pollution and will update the Guidance Document on Economic Instruments to Reduce Nitrogen Oxides, Sulphur, VOCs and Ammonia (EB.AIR/1999/2, chapter VI) in the revision process for the Gothenburg Protocol. It will contribute to cost-benefit analysis carried out for scenarios developed for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol.

1.4 REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Description/objectives: To work on the technical reviews of substances forwarded to it by the Executive Body and deemed acceptable by the Parties to the Protocol on POPs; and to continue to explore management strategies and options for those substances accepted as POPs by the Parties to the Protocol. The Task Force on POPs, led by Canada and the Netherlands, will carry out the technical work for these reviews and strategies.

Main activities/time schedule: The Task Force on POPs will:

- (a) Initiate new track A and track B reviews of dossiers as requested by the Executive Body;
- (b) Continue work on track B reviews of dicofol, endosulfan, hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), pentachlorophenol and/or trifluralin substances if directed by the Executive Body, including, inter alia, gathering new information through a questionnaire;
- (c) Carry out any other work as requested by the Executive Body;
- (d) Hold its eighth meeting in 2010 (date and venue to be decided).

1.5 REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF HEAVY METALS

Description/objectives: To continue the technical work related to the sufficiency and effectiveness review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals; and to carry out work, if necessary, on the technical review of proposals for additional heavy metals, product control measures or products/product groups. The Task Force on Heavy Metals, led by Germany, will carry out the technical work.

Main activities and time schedule: The Task Force on Heavy Metals will:

- (a) Carry out further work in 2010 as required by the Executive Body on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;
- (b) Hold its next meeting in spring 2010, if necessary.

1.6 TECHNO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Description/objectives: To explore further best available techniques (BAT) for emission abatement, including their efficiencies and costs; to continue to develop a techno-economic database (ECODAT) and methodologies for evaluating uncertainties; and to draw up draft revisions of techno-economic items in annexes to protocols.

Main activities and time schedule: The Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues, with France and Italy as lead countries, will:

- (a) Provide further technical explanations on the rationale behind the work done to prepare the revised annexes IV, V, VI, VIII and IX to the Gothenburg Protocol, including the new annex on particulate matter;
- (b) Initiate the work on small- and medium-sized combustion installations (<50 MWth), with a view to including these in the draft technical annex on dust to the Gothenburg Protocol;
- (c) Report on progress to the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;
- (d) Cooperate with the European Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Bureau for the revision of BAT reference documents for the steel, glass and possibly cement industries, mainly on cost issues;
- (e) Hold its seventeenth meeting in 2010 (venue to be specified).

1.7 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Description/objectives: To create favourable conditions for implementing technology-related obligations of the Convention and its protocols; to facilitate the implementation of existing protocols and the accession of non-Parties, particularly countries with economies in transition; and to examine the needs for updating technical annexes and guidance documents to the protocols.

Main activities and time schedule: The Working Group on Strategies and Review will:

- (a) Implement the revised Action Plan to involve EECCA countries in the work of the Convention;

(b) Develop a possible new Action Plan to involve SEE countries in the work of the Convention.

1.8 REACTIVE NITROGEN

Description/objectives: To develop an integrated approach towards controlling nitrogen pollution in the framework of the Convention and to improve coordination between the work of various Convention bodies on nitrogen compounds. A Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, led by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, will carry out tasks as outlined in decision 2007/1 of the Executive Body.

Main activities and time schedule: The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen will:

(a) Continue improving coordination of activities across and outside the Convention and will collaborate with subsidiary bodies under the Convention to complement the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Convention, in particular by working with:

(i) With the International Cooperative Programme (ICP) Modelling and Mapping, in particular on critical loads and dynamic modelling of nitrogen effects, including the development of indicators through the use of nitrogen budget approaches;

(ii) With the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, to prepare a joint workshop on agricultural emission projections and to continue ensuring consistency between development of emission estimates and the estimation of efficiencies of agricultural emissions abatement;

(iii) With the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, participating in relevant meetings, in particular providing advice to avoid pollutant swapping, considering aspirational targets and effects of human behaviour, including dietary choices.

(b) Continue the work of the former Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement; to develop technical and scientific information on an integrated approach to mitigation of agricultural nitrogen emissions with particular reference to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, and in particular to update the Framework Code on Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia and the Guidance Document on Control Techniques for Preventing and Abating Emissions of Ammonia; to inform the Working Group on Strategies and Review's

deliberations on revisions to annex IX of the Gothenburg Protocol; and to take account of reference documentation on the application of best available techniques (BREFs);

(c) Continue providing technical information on making and using nitrogen budgets and estimating nitrogen emissions at various spatial scales and for various system boundaries;

(d) Continue developing and providing technical and scientific information to support the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in relation to the whole nitrogen cycle;

(e) Request the national focal points to report their experiences, including any difficulties that they have in developing and implementing an integrated approach;

(f) Further consider the results from the European Nitrogen Assessment;

(g) Provide technical information on the effects of human diets on nitrogen use and emissions;

(h) Hold the Task Force's fourth meeting, planned for 11–13 May 2010 in Prague, and submit its report.
