

Decision 2010/2
Implications of the reports of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Black Carbon

The Executive Body,

1. *Acknowledges* the conclusions of the reports of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and the Ad Hoc Expert Group on Black Carbon, which demonstrate the need for taking action in the near term to reduce emissions of short lived climate forcers (SLCFs), specifically black carbon and tropospheric ozone precursors including methane and carbon monoxide. Reductions of these pollutants will improve air quality, provide significant public health benefits, and provide regional climate benefits by protecting the Arctic and glaciated mountainous regions in particular from accelerated rates of melting of ice, snow and permafrost;

2. *Recognizes* that all measures to reduce emissions of black carbon (BC) also reduce emissions of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), but that not all PM_{2.5} measures correspondingly reduce BC;

3. *Decides* to include consideration of BC, as a component of particulate matter (PM), in the process of the revision of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol);

4. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to consider, beginning in its April 2011 session, the inclusion of BC in the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, with the aim of concluding the Protocol revision in 2011. Specifically, the Working Group on Strategies and Review should prepare text to address:

(a) The importance of reducing BC emissions as a component of PM for air quality, health benefits, and climate reasons in preambular text;

(b) The need for ongoing work to:

(i) Develop national emission inventories, ambient monitoring and source measurements; and

(ii) Improve understanding of adverse effects, efficacy of control techniques, and costs and benefits of abatement;

(c) Measures covered by the draft technical annexes on PM to the Gothenburg Protocol that at the same time reduce BC emissions and abatement techniques for significant source categories of BC as a component of PM;

5. *Requests*, in relation to 4 (c) above, the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues and the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, in conjunction with the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling, to produce guidance on those sources, measures, and abatement techniques to inform the April 2011 meeting of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

6. *Also requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to consider including a review clause and an expedited procedure to allow for rapid adjustments of the Gothenburg Protocol, if necessary, as emerging research and other knowledge becomes available;

7. *Further requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to prepare text of a revised Protocol, to maximize potential ratifications among Parties in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

8. *Requests* other Convention bodies, to further these aims, to enhance the current state of knowledge in their ongoing work programmes:

(a) In particular the EMEP Steering Body should direct in the short or medium term:

(i) The Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections to work on guidelines for BC inventories with a view to making it possible to begin voluntary national reporting of BC emissions in the near future;

(ii) The Task Force on Measurements and Modelling to identify the relevant characteristics of BC to be measured, monitored and reported, to be included in the EMEP monitoring strategy 2010–2019;

(iii) The Task Force on Hemispheric Transport and the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling to ensure inclusion of BC in the regional and hemispheric atmospheric transport modelling work; and

(iv) The Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling to include BC in their multi-pollutant assessment framework;

(b) The Working Group on Effects should direct:

(i) The Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution (Task Force on Health) to look at adverse effects on human health of black carbon as a component of PM_{2.5};

(ii) The International Cooperative Programmes to look at adverse effects of BC deposition on vegetation, soiling of materials and possibly other effects;

9. *Decides* to request the Chair of the Executive Body to inform the International Maritime Organization (IMO) of its concern about the climate and health impacts of BC emissions, and to urge the IMO to adopt requirements to reduce emissions of BC from international shipping, especially emissions in areas that impact the Arctic climate;

10. *Requests* subsidiary bodies to the Convention to examine over the longer term the regional impacts of reducing the levels of tropospheric ozone and its precursors, including methane and carbon monoxide, considering both climate change and air quality/health/agriculture benefits, based on the work already conducted by the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and the recommendations for the EMEP work programme contained in the policy document submitted as informal document No. 3, ensuring there is no duplication of existing efforts, such as under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Global Methane Initiative. Additionally:

(a) The Working Group on Strategies and Review should direct:

(i) The Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues to ensure, to the extent possible, that the information regarding control technologies and their effectiveness for ozone precursors is consistent with the information used in other forums; and

(ii) The Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments to explore the availability and use of appropriate methods to estimate the benefits of control strategies in terms of improved air quality and reduced climate change;

(b) The Working Group on Effects should examine the effects on health, ecosystems and crops due to different future projected ozone levels, depending on adopted measures under the Convention and other applicable requirements in countries, including the effects of improved air quality and reduced climate change.
