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EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON  
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION  
Bureau to the Executive Body

### **Note of the Bureau Meeting on 15 April 2010**

**Attendance:** Apologies were received by Ms. N. Karpova. Ms. V. Galatone participated via audioconference. All other Bureau members and observers attended, as well as Ms. M. Wenning from the European Commission. Mr. M. Keiner, Director of EHLM Division, as well as Mr. S. Ludwiczak and Ms. A. Karadjova from the secretariat were present.

#### **Item 1: Draft long-term strategy for the Convention**

The Bureau discussed the draft long-term strategy and made some comments and suggestions. With regard to the issue of POPs and HM, there was a need to make a clear distinction between (a) the scientific work, (b) the policy work (i.e. protocol development) and (c) the implementation. The strategy should give a clear message that the first would continue, the second would be scaled down and the third would continue. It was necessary to balance the text in such a way as to send the clear message that the scientific programme was one of the Convention's big strengths, but it does need to reflect the policy/strategic direction of the Convention. There was a big role for MSC-E to play with regard to facilitating the implementation in EECCA and SEE regions by providing scientific and technical support.

Ms. Galatone noted that it was important to be clear on how the strategy would be implemented in practice. The Chairman said that it was the intention that the strategy would not address this issue, but it was nonetheless very important. The most obvious way to implement the LTS would be through the workplan which the EB had to agree every year; he noted that this item at the EB meetings should be given more attention than was often the case in the past to ensure future work reflected the strategic priorities. Likewise the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies had a responsibility in compiling their sections of the workplan to ensure consistency with the LTS. The Chairman asked that Bureau members give more thought to possible better ways of implementing the Strategy and asked that the Bureau return to the subject at its next meeting.

The Chairman will reflect the comments and suggestions into a revised version by 3 May 2010. It will be sent to the Bureau members for further remarks. Comments from the Implementation Committee will be provided in May after a discussion at its meeting on 27-29 April. The original aim of submitting the strategy as an official

document to the three main subsidiary bodies in the September meetings was confirmed. The deadline for this submission is mid-June.

### **Item 2: Secretariat resources and needs**

The Director of EHLM Division explained in detail the background and the rationale behind the recent reassignment of tasks within the secretariat, and in particular the separation of the functions of Chief of Section and Secretary to the Convention. The timing of this reassignment had been determined by Ms. Catherine Masson's unexpected decision for early retirement. Rather than wait for many weeks before reallocating tasks, to minimise uncertainty the Director had decided to act quickly; he was aware that this was not ideal in terms of announcing the changes to formal meetings of subsidiary bodies, but once the decisions had been made they were made widely known very quickly, including by an e-mail circulated to the Heads of Delegation to the EB and all subsidiary bodies on 24 February 2010. The secretariat resources were becoming highly insufficient for the increased demands for servicing the Convention in recent years. The increased number of meetings, including plenary meetings, of documents and capacity-building activities required very careful prioritising on behalf of the secretariat.

Recalling decisions 2003/10, 2004/2, 2004/3, 2004/4, 2007/1 and the guidelines for task forces and expert groups, the secretariat reminded the Bureau that lead Parties assumed the principal responsibility for coordinating the work of task forces and expert groups, for organizing their meetings, for designating their chair(s), for communications with participating experts and observers, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the workplan. While the secretariat had volunteered to provide a much greater support to the lead countries in this process in the past, it could no longer afford to do this.

Activities related to capacity-building in EECCA and SEE would have to be discontinued at the end of July, unless sufficient extrabudgetary funds were available for one professional post. It was stressed that the Convention was the only one of the five UNECE Conventions not to benefit from extrabudgetary staff.

The Chairman of the EB, on behalf of the Bureau, will send a letter to the Environment Ministers of major donor countries voicing this urgent need and requesting them to provide contributions to the trust fund.

### **Item 3: Draft Terms of reference for the coordinating group on EECCA**

Due to time constraints and in view of the absence of Ms. Natalia Karpova, the Bureau decided to postpone the discussion of the Draft Terms of Reference for the

Coordinating Group on EECCA, but Bureau members were invited to send any comments they might have so that agreement might be reached by correspondence.

**Item 4: Requests for accreditation**

The EB Bureau decided to recommend to the Executive Body to give the accreditation requested by the Clean Air Task Force.

**Item 5: Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Bureau will be on 3 September 2010 in Geneva starting at 2 p.m.