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Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range
Transboundary Air Pollution

**Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for
Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range
Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)**

Thirty-fourth session

Geneva, 13–15 September 2010

Report of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe on its thirty-fourth session

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1–7	3
A. Attendance	2–3	3
B. Organizational matters	4–7	3
II. Matters arising from recent meetings of the Executive Body and its subsidiary bodies and activities of the Bureau of the Steering Body	8–10	3
III. In-depth discussion of activities relevant to hemispheric transport and short-lived climate forcing of air pollutants	11–15	4
IV. Progress in activities in 2010 and future work	16–29	5
A. Measurements and modelling (acidification, eutrophication and photo-oxidants, heavy metals, particulate matter and persistent organic pollutants)	18–24	5
B. Integrated assessment modelling	25–26	6
C. Emissions	27–29	6
V. Long-term strategy for the Convention	30–32	7
VI. Draft 2011 workplan for implementation of the Convention	33–34	8

VII.	Financial and budgetary matters.....	35–38	8
VIII.	Cooperation with other organizations and programmes.....	39–40	9
IX.	Outreach and sharing information with other regions.....	41	10
X.	Closing of the thirty-fourth session.....	42–43	10
Annex			
	List of presentations made during the in-depth discussion of activities relevant to hemispheric transport and short-lived climate forcing of air pollutants.....		11

I. Introduction

1. The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) held its thirty-fourth session from 13 to 15 September 2010 in Geneva.

A. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives from the following Parties to the Convention: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. A representative of Japan also attended.

3. Representatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the five EMEP centres — the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP); the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM); the Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC); the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-East); and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-West) attended. *Laboratoire Atmosphères, Milieux, Observations Spatiales* (LATMOS-CNRS) and the Union of the Electricity Industry (EURELECTRIC) were also represented.

B. Organizational matters

4. The Steering Body adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document EB.AIR/GE.1/2010/1.

5. The Steering Body considered and adopted the report of its thirty-third session as set out in document ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2009/2.

6. Following elections, Ms. S. Vidič (Croatia) was re-elected as Chair, Mr. P. Grennfelt (Sweden), Mr. Y. Viisanen (Finland), Mr. J. Macoun (Czech Republic) and Mr. X. Querol (Spain) were re-elected as Vice-Chairs, and Mr. Paul Ruysenaars (Netherlands) and Mr. Saavas Kleanthous (Cyprus) were elected as new Vice-Chairs.

7. The Steering Group agreed to continue allowing representation of the European Commission, as observer, at the meetings of the Bureau.

II. Matters arising from recent meetings of the Executive Body and its subsidiary bodies and activities of the Bureau of the Steering Body

8. The secretariat presented the main outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body for the Convention that were of relevance to the EMEP Programme, including decisions related to the revision and amendments of the Convention's Protocols. The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review reported on relevant conclusions of its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions, and the Chair of the Working

Group on Effects informed the Steering Body about the Working Group's upcoming twenty-ninth session.

9. The Chair of the Steering Body then presented a brief summary of the work of the Bureau of the Steering Body between the Steering Body's thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions, highlighting the cooperation with the Working Group on Effects.

10. The Steering Body took note of the foregoing oral presentations.

III. In-depth discussion of activities relevant to hemispheric transport and short-lived climate forcing of air pollutants

11. The Steering Body addressed this agenda item in the form of a special session organized by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution highlighting the findings of the draft 2010 Assessment Report on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, made available as an informal document for the session, and the interlinked issue of short-lived climate forcing of air pollutants. Twelve presentations were made by lead authors of the 2010 Assessment Report, by participants in assessment efforts related to short-lived climate forcing under Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, and by CIAM. The presentations referred to particular parts/chapters of the full draft report (see annex). Delegations acknowledged the work done and obtained results by the Task Force on the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution as it provided important policy messages for future work of the Convention.

12. Following a discussion on the topics presented, the Steering Body found that the Task Force had provided a comprehensive review of the state of the science and had performed a number of new studies on intercontinental transport for ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM), mercury (Hg) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The Steering Body concluded that the findings were well supported and merited further consideration by the Executive Body, recognizing that there were different messages for the different pollutants considered. In particular, the health and environmental effects of the intercontinental transport of ozone and the role of methane as an ozone precursor should be highlighted.

13. In addition to finalizing the Executive Summary of the Assessment Report, the Steering Body requested the Co-Chairs of the Task Force to prepare for the Executive Body an informal note concisely summarizing specific findings and recommendations that were relevant for the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on POPs, the draft long-term strategy for the Convention, and the draft 2011 workplan for implementation of the Convention.

14. The Steering Body found that there were compelling reasons to consider the short-lived climate forcing of air pollution in the integrated assessment of control strategies.

15. The Steering Body concluded that CIAM had developed a sound approach for including short-lived climate forcing elements into integrated assessment modelling that could be useful for prioritizing control strategies for PM. Including short-lived climate forcing in the integrated assessment modelling set an important example for air pollution control efforts in other regions of the world. It was also noted that, owing to the need to further explore the remaining scientific uncertainties, CIAM was organizing a workshop in November 2010 to specifically address those questions.

IV. Progress in activities in 2010 and future work

16. The Chair invited the Steering Body to separately discuss each area of work, considering progress made in 2010 with respect to the Convention's workplan and taking into account the draft 2011 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2010/5).

17. The Steering Body noted that the four status reports relevant for the evaluation of progress in implementation of the workplan for 2010 had been prepared by the EMEP centres on time and were all available on the EMEP website (<http://www.emep.int>).

A. Measurements and modelling (acidification, eutrophication and photo-oxidants, heavy metals, particulate matter and persistent organic pollutants)

18. The Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (France) reported on progress, including the results of the eleventh meeting of the Task Force (Larnaca, Cyprus, 13–14 May 2010). Ukraine's work to develop a modelling framework for heavy metals and an emission inventory, which had been discussed at the request of the Bureau of the EMEP Steering Body so as to evaluate Ukraine's in-kind contribution to EMEP for approval, was highlighted.

19. Ms. Liisa Jalkanen (WMO) announced that Ms. Oksana Tarasova from WMO would replace her as co-Chair of the Task Force on behalf of WMO.

20. A representative of MSC-W gave an overview of the activities on monitoring and modelling of acidification, eutrophication and photo-oxidants, including progress made with respect to work at CCC and CIAM, its own work, discussions within the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and plans for work up to 2011.

21. A representative of MSC-E presented an overview of the activities on monitoring and modelling of heavy metals, including progress made with respect to work at CCC, its own work, discussions within the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and plans for future work; MSC-E also provided information on the progress of the test case study on heavy metals covering Croatia, the Czech Republic, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Spain.

22. A representative of CCC presented an overview of activities on atmospheric monitoring and modelling of PM, including progress made with respect to work at MSC-W and CIAM, its own work, the results of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and plans for work up to 2011. Attention was drawn to extensive field measurement campaigns and the progress in implementation of the EMEP monitoring strategy.

23. A representative of MSC-E presented an overview of activities on monitoring and modelling of POPs, including progress made with respect to work at CCC, its own work, the results of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and plans for future work.

24. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the reports by the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling as well as the status reports by MSC-W, MSC-E and CCC;

(b) Approved the executive summaries of the status reports and decided to present them to the Executive Body;

(c) Encouraged Parties to communicate any encountered problems in relation to implementation of the EMEP Monitoring Strategy to the Steering Body, the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and CCC;

(d) Requested MSC-E to identify gaps in knowledge and research needs in order to find solutions to better address processes of re-suspension related to POPs and heavy metals deposition, as well as transmission through different media and encouraged it to cooperate closely with the Working Group on Effects on improving existing information relevant for POPs in various media;

(e) Recognized the need to facilitate access to the results of field measurement campaigns, especially for modelling purposes, and encouraged CCC and Parties in which those campaigns took place to facilitate access to those data.

B. Integrated assessment modelling

25. The Chair of Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Head of CIAM presented progress in their work and provided relevant information on options for setting targets in a revised Gothenburg Protocol, making reference to the outcome of forty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. They also drew attention to the economic aspects of abatement strategies and linkages between air pollution and climate change, and presented examples of such linkages in integrated assessment modelling and plans for further work of Task Force and CIAM.

26. The Steering Body:

(a) Acknowledged the work carried out by CIAM and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the progress made in relation to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol and supported the continuation of that work in 2011;

(b) Welcomed the offer of Sweden to co-chair the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling with the Netherlands, while the Netherlands would remain as the lead country;

(c) Welcomed the initiative of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and CIAM to cooperate closely with the Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Issues and that the work of the Network was conducted within the framework of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling.

C. Emissions

27. The Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections reported on progress made, including the results of the Task Force's twenty-third meeting (Larnaca, Cyprus, 10–11 May 2010), and presented a draft Maintenance and Improvement Plan for the *EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook*.

28. A representative of CEIP informed the Steering Body about the status of emissions data reporting, its own work and the work of CIAM on data quality, as well as progress in the inventory improvement programme, in particular with regard to the stage 3 in-depth reviews of the emission inventories.

29. The Steering Body:

(a) Acknowledged the work carried out by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and progress made and supported the continuation of that work in 2011;

(b) Noted the gaps and inconsistencies in submitted national inventories for the Convention and acknowledged the work of CEIP to address those issues to improve the quality of the emission data, and invited Parties that still did not report their emission data in agreed formats/tables to do so;

(c) At the request of Malta, noted and approved that stage-3 review of Malta's national emission inventory be postponed until 2012; and, at the request of CEIP, invited other Parties to step in if they were ready for a stage-3 review;

(d) Encouraged Luxembourg and Ukraine, which were scheduled for an in-depth review in 2011, to submit promptly their Informative Inventory Reports (IIRs) to enable the reviews to take place, and requested the secretariat to send letters to those Parties to remind them;

(e) Invited the Russian Federation to submit information on emission data on its territory that was within the extended EMEP grid, for instance, data for large point sources if complete inventory was not available;

(f) Further encouraged Parties to nominate experts to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) roster of reviewers and lead reviewers, and to support their participation in the scheduled reviews;

(g) Requested MSC-W and MSC-E to elaborate a note on the needs and options for modifications of EMEP grid projection (possibly a transfer to geographical coordinates) and for increase of the grid resolution, and to provide the relevant rationale;

(h) Supported the initiative of MSC-E to organize a joint meeting of EMEP centres to discuss and, if needed, propose changes in the EMEP grid projection and resolution and to present their conclusions to the Task Forces on Measurements and Modelling and on Emission Inventories and Projections;

(i) Approved the draft Maintenance and Improvement Plan for the EMEP/EEA Air Pollutants Emission Inventory Guidebook (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2010/7), and agreed to forward the plan to the twenty-eighth session of Executive Body for adoption;

(j) Approved the revisions of several chapters in the Emission Inventory Guidebook, as listed in paragraph 20 of document ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2010/5.

V. Long-term strategy for the Convention

30. The Chair presented briefly the draft long-term strategy for the Convention contained in document ECE/EB/AIR/WG.5/2010/17 and explained that the proposed strategy for the Convention, once adopted, might require an adjustment of both the EMEP Strategy and the Strategy of the Working Group on Effects adopted by the Executive Body at its twenty-seventh session in 2009.

31. The Steering Body discussed the draft long-term strategy for the Convention, remarking that, overall, the draft appeared to take too defensive a position and was not inspiring enough, mainly due to the use of language that failed to highlight the successfulness of the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in tracing the road to efficient policymaking in Europe, which had resulted in significant air quality improvement and protection of the environment. Moreover, the visionary component of the strategy should be more prominent and better reflect the need for regional agreements, issues related to climate change, reactive nitrogen and black carbon. In addition, it was stressed that the links with other conventions were not addressed in a clear enough way. Some delegations were of the opinion that the document should be finalized after the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, and the Protocols on Heavy Metals and POPs, but the EU delegation

did not support that view. The EU suggested that the best way to proceed would be to make amendments to the draft and to introduce changes that would reflect the views expressed.

32. The Steering Body:

(a) Invited Parties to submit to the Chair of the Steering Body, within one week, their written contributions and comments to the draft long-term strategy for the Convention contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2010/17 and to Informal document No. 3: Proposed amendments to document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2010/17 made by the delegations of the EU, Norway, Switzerland and the United States at the forty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (30 August–3 September 2010);

(b) Requested the Chair of the Steering Body to distribute the text with the proposed amendments to the members of the Bureau of the EMEP Steering Body for their attention and consolidation in order to submit it for further elaboration to the Chair and the Bureau of the Executive Body.

VI. Draft 2011 workplan for implementation of the Convention

33. The Chair introduced the draft 2011 workplan for the implementation of the Convention related to EMEP (EB.AIR/2010/5, section 2), prepared on the basis of the priorities of the Executive Body reflected in recent workplans, as well as the input by the task forces and centres.

34. The Steering Body considered the draft 2011 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, in particular section 2 relating to EMEP, and agreed to recommend to the Executive Body to approve it with the following amendments:

(a) On page 18, activities area 2.4, under the section entitled “Main activities by Parties”, add “To the extent possible,” at the beginning of subparagraph (c);

(b) On page 20, activities area 2.5, under the section entitled “Main activities by the centres and task forces”, delete subparagraph (a).

VII. Financial and budgetary matters

35. The secretariat introduced the note on financial and budgetary matters (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2010/10), informing the Steering Body of the current status of contributions, including contributions that were made between 24 June and 14 September 2010. The note also presented the budget proposal for 2011, prepared on the basis of the decisions of the Bureau.

36. The secretariat drew attention to the fact that the scale of contributions presented in table 4 of the note was calculated on the basis of the 2007 United Nations scale of assessments and did not account for the accession to the EMEP Protocol by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in March 2010. The secretariat recalled the need to revise the annex to the EMEP Protocol in view of the accession by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to use the 2010 United Nations scale of assessments, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2009. The secretariat presented a draft revised annex and a revised 2011 scale of contributions based on the 2010 United Nations scale of assessments.

37. The representative of Ukraine made a short presentation on its work with respect to its in-kind contributions related to developing a modelling framework and implementation and establishment of a monitoring site. The modelling work had been completed and the results had been presented to experts at meeting of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling in May 2010. Work related to the establishment of the monitoring site was in

progress and expected to be finalized soon, since both financial resources and background infrastructure had been secured.

38. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the status of contributions to the financing of EMEP provided in document ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2010/10 and the additional information provided by the secretariat during the session;

(b) Approved the use of resources by the EMEP centres in 2009, as presented in table 2 of that document;

(c) Agreed on the detailed budget for 2011 set out in table 3 of the document and the schedule of mandatory contributions from Parties for 2011, based on the 2010 United Nations scale of assessments as presented by the secretariat during the meeting;

(d) Also agreed to keep the total budget of CIAM for 2011 at \$395,000 and the provisional budgets for 2012 and 2013 at the same level;

(e) Recommended that the Executive Body adopt the 2011 budgets and schedule of contributions;

(f) Recommended to the Executive Body to amend the EMEP Protocol by adopting, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, a revised annex including the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;

(g) Called upon the Parties to the EMEP Protocol to consider making voluntary contributions (in kind or in cash through the trust fund) to ensure that the work, and especially the difficult tasks required in 2011 for carrying out the protocol revisions, including the work on integrated assessment modelling, could be accomplished as foreseen in the workplan;

(h) Invited all Parties which had not yet paid their contributions for 2010 to do so as soon as possible;

(i) Approved the national model for mapping air concentrations and deposition of heavy metals prepared by Ukraine and recommended to the Executive Body that it acknowledge that through that work Ukraine had covered its arrears to EMEP for the period 1992–1994, equivalent to \$140,989;

(j) Urged Ukraine to proceed with the establishment of the EMEP station for background monitoring, in close cooperation with CCC, as an in-kind contribution to cover the second part of its arrears to EMEP, equivalent to \$175,205; and that Ukraine provide CCC with the contact details of an English-speaking focal point to facilitate further cooperation.

VIII. Cooperation with other organizations and programmes

39. The representatives of WMO and EEA presented their work and highlighted a number of activities of relevance for EMEP, as well as those made in cooperation with EMEP in areas of common interest like the emission work, measurements of air pollutants and modelling activities.

40. The Steering Body:

(a) Took note of the information presented by WMO and EEA and welcomed the useful cooperation;

(b) Expressed its gratitude for the contributions made to EMEP and the Convention and stressed the benefits and importance of continued cooperation.

IX. Outreach and sharing information with other regions

41. The Chair drew attention to the decision taken at Executive Body's twenty-fifth session, in 2007, encouraging subsidiary bodies to share their experience and information with other regions. As there were no representatives of other regions at the meeting, the Steering Body welcomed the information presented by Canada and United States on their various programmes and activities related to air quality including their outreach activities.

X. Closing of the thirty-fourth session

42. The Steering Body agreed on the main decisions taken during the session.

43. It was agreed to hold the thirty-fifth session of the EMEP Steering Body from 5 to 7 September 2011 in Geneva. The meeting of the extended Bureau was tentatively scheduled to be held from 14 to 16 March 2011.

Annex**List of presentations made during the in-depth discussion of activities relevant to hemispheric transport and short-lived climate forcing of air pollutants**

1. Overview of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution Activities and Findings, delivered by André Zuber.
 2. Part C: POPs, by Sergey Dutchak.
 3. Part B: Hg, by Nicola Pirrone.
 4. Part A: O₃/PM Observations, by Kathy Law.
 5. Part A: O₃/PM Modelling, by Frank Dentener.
 6. Part A: O₃/PM Health Impacts, by Susan Casper Anenberg.
 7. Part A: O₃/PM Eco/Climate Impacts, by Terry Keating.
 8. Future Directions, by Terry Keating.
 9. SLCF¹ and the Arctic, by Terje Bernsten.
 10. Importance of CH₄ for O₃, by Terry Keating.
 11. Near-term climate change, by Frank Raes.
 12. Near-term radiative forcing, by Markus Amann.
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¹ Short-lived climate forcing.