

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

**Note of the Bureau Meeting on 16 September 2011**

**Attendance:** All Bureau members attended. Mr. Andre Zuber attended as an observer on behalf of the EU. Mr. Marco Keiner, Mr. S. Ludwiczak, Ms. A Karadjova and Mr. K. Olendrzynski from the UNECE secretariat attended. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Martin Williams, Chairman of the Executive Body.

Mr. Marco Keiner - the director of the Environment Division of UNECE welcomed the participants of the meeting and informed about the ongoing ECE review, as well as the initiative of the Chair of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, Mr. Chris Dijkens, to hold a joint meeting of chairs of the 5 UNECE environmental conventions (Air Pollution, Water, Espoo (environmental impact assessment), Aarhus (PRTR) and Industrial Accidents) in Geneva on 22 November 2011. The aim of the meeting was to look into the synergies between the five Conventions and to elaborate a joint contribution to the ongoing review of the UNECE through the Committee on Environmental Policy.

**Action: EB Bureau will exchange views on the issue and will decide on the LRTAP input to the 22 November meeting. It was agreed that Mr. Martin Williams is going to participate possibly supported by another member of the Bureau. The secretariat will also participate.**

**Item 1: Status of the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol and the Protocol on Heavy Metals and draft agenda for the 29th session of the EB (12-16 December 2011)**

The EB Bureau exchanged views on the outcome of WGSR-49 focusing on the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol. The key remaining issues were: the revision of annex II (national emission ceilings), flexibility clause for countries in the EECCA region and economies in transition, finalization of technical annexes, selection of mandatory vs. voluntary ammonia abatement measures in annex IX, and text on the inclusion of black carbon. The timeline for completing the revision was a major challenge and needed to be reconsidered. Further work on the revision was required (probably at least 2 days and possibly more) during 29th Executive Body session in December 2011. This, in turn, implied the organization of an extraordinary meeting of the Parties (EB) back-to-back with WGSR-50 to adopt the revised Protocol. The proposed dates for WGSR 50 were changed to 30 April - 4 May 2012.

Several Bureau members stressed the usefulness of setting up separate drafting groups on specific issues (as the one on black carbon during the 49th WGSR) during the next EB and WGSR meeting to work out solutions to points of disagreement between Parties. Also bilateral and multilateral discussions and conference calls could be arranged between EU, RU and US on black carbon and other issues even before December.

Bureau members noted the importance of having all informal documents provided and translated into Russian in due time before the session. The secretariat explained the procedures and timelines for translation of documents in the UN system. It reiterated that only official documents could be translated and they should be available in three languages 6 weeks before the session (English versions - 10 weeks in advance of the session). It could also explore the possibility for in-session translation of documents. Translation of informal documents depended on the parties submitting them. The Bureau would also look into the feasibility of obtaining an unofficial translation of the draft Gothenburg Protocol text as early as possible.

**Action: (a) Martin Williams to inform Parties about the continuation of the GP negotiations during the 29<sup>th</sup> EB session in a letter to them and to plan for establishment of additional drafting groups; (b) secretariat to write to Parties soon to clarify the dates of the WGSR meeting 30 April to 4 May as there was some confusion among Parties; (c) secretariat to organize an extraordinary meeting of Parties (EB) on 30 April - 4 May 2012 and inform Parties about its aim and dates; Bureau to pursue early translation of draft Gothenburg Protocol text.**

### **Item 2: Action plan for the implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention**

The EB Bureau discussed the draft prepared and circulated by Mr. F. San Martini on 7 September 2011. The Bureau - once again - pointed out the complexity of LRTAP structures compared to other international organizations and processes and supported the need for increasing the overall efficiency. It exchanged views on the planned review of the Convention's 23 task forces and expert groups with the aim of increasing the efficiency of work in particular by simplifying the organizational structure and streamlining the mandates of the different bodies and groups under the Convention. It was pointed out that such a review should assess both the relevance of the substantive work done by a given group and its organizational efficiency.

Some members of the Bureau pointed to the potential danger of reducing the number of Task Forces (EMEP SB) or ICPs (WGE). The EMEP task forces provide the key communication platform between EMEP SB and the Parties. Such reductions could lead to redirection of national funding to tasks other than the air pollution issues.

Various ideas were put forward as to who should do the different tasks envisaged in the current draft. It was agreed that any review should be done with the input/participation of representatives of the bodies/groups which will be reviewed. Bureau members expressed reluctance with regard to a possible external review.

**Action: the secretariat to collect written inputs from the Bureau members to the draft plan until 23 September and prepare a revised draft plan to be finalized by 30 September and submitted to the 29th session of the EB, in accordance with EB decision 2010/18.**

### **Item 3: Activities of the Chair, the Bureau and the secretariat outside the normal LRTAP meetings:**

Mr. Martin Williams informed the Bureau about follow up activities under UNEP with respect to February 2011 decision of the Governing Council on the assessment of black carbon and other short-

lived climate forcers and his participation in the elaboration of an action plan. He added that UNEP planned to submit a paper to UNFCCC on this issue prior to the COP meeting in Durban in December 2011.

The Bureau was also informed that three members of the Bureau members, Martin Williams, Sonja Vidic and Richard Ballaman, attended a meeting of the European Commission Stakeholder Expert Group in Brussels in June and had very recently filled out a questionnaire with a LRTAP position as part of the ongoing stakeholder consultations on the revision of the EU legislation concerning air quality issues.

The secretariat informed about activities in the Subregional Office For East and North-East Asia (SRO-ENEA) of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific related to air pollution. On 1-2 September 2011, the Sixteenth Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of NEASPEC approved a project proposal submitted by the Russian Federation "Review of Existing and required Capacities for Addressing Adverse Environmental Impact of Transboundary Air Pollution in North-East Asia, which was scheduled for approximately 12 months was of direct relevance for EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. The secretariat helped to finalize the project proposal by providing input to the draft proposal presented during the Expert Consultation meeting on NEASPEC activities held on 20-21 January 2011 at Incheon, Republic of Korea.

#### **Item 4: Recommendations of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution on wider global cooperation**

At its 28<sup>th</sup> session in December 2010, the Executive Body requested the Bureau to: develop a set of questions designed to evaluate the level of interest and capacity of relevant organizations outside the UNECE for further cooperation, in consultation with the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body, the WGE and WGSR, and the secretariat. Another aim was to explore the most effective ways of furthering that cooperation. Although the co-chairs of the Task Force on Hemispheric transport of air Pollution (TFHTAP) initiated the work on the set of questions, it was not completed yet.

**Action: Bureau invited the co-chairs to finalize the draft set of questions and forward it to the Bureau, other bodies of LRTAP and the secretariat with a request for their comments.**

#### **Item 5: Resources of the secretariat**

Mr. Sergiusz Ludwiczak informed about progress in the recruitment procedures to fill in the two regular budget vacancies in the secretariat as well as the efforts to establish an extra-budgetary post (based on contributions from Norway and Canada). The contribution from Canada was expected to arrive at UNECE in the next few weeks. All the three vacancies were expected to be filled in by early 2012.

Mr. F. San Martini expressed his concern that the currently reduced number of staff in the secretariat had led to delays in the translation of documents into Russian for the plenary sessions. The secretariat explained that all it could do for the timely translation of documents was to submit them for translation on time. It explained once again the procedures for submission and translation of official

documents and confirmed that it had made considerable efforts and had submitted all the 22 pre-session documents for WGSR in 2011 on time. It reminded that the remaining language versions should be available six weeks prior to the start of the session and that this was a rule valid for the UN as a whole.

#### **Item 6: Organization of work and meetings in 2012**

The Bureau discussed the optimal organization of work in 2012 and agreed with the preliminary dates for plenary meetings of the EB and the major subsidiary bodies in 2012 and their bureaux meetings, announced by the secretariat (see annex). Mr. Tor Johannessen pointed out that two days planned for the 31st session of the WGE may be too little time for the body in view of the extensive agenda for the meeting. The secretariat explained the difficulty to accommodate the meetings of all LRTAP bodies in September especially taking into consideration that the end of September was the deadline for submitting official documents for the EB session in December. Therefore, the EMEP SB and WGE were planned back-to-back in the third week of September 2012 possibly having a joint session of the two bodies. The meetings of the EMEP SB and WGE Bureaux planned for in March may need to be postponed by one in order to avoid coincidence with the 2012 Geneva Motor Show.

#### **Item 7: Other business**

Mr. Johannessen informed that Mr. Peringe Grennfelt (Sweden) is a candidate to replace him as chair of WGE. Mr. Grennfelt has been working with the LRTAP since its beginnings focusing on EMEP and WGE related issues.

#### **Item 8: Date, time and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Bureau will be in Geneva on 12 December 2011 at 9 a.m.

### **Annex**

#### **Preliminary 2012 list of meetings for LRTAP Convention**

12-14 March	EMEP Bureau
14-16 March	WGE Bureau
18-20 April	Implementation Committee 29 <sup>th</sup> meeting
30 April - 4 May	EB extraordinary session, WGSR 50 <sup>th</sup> session
30 April	EB Bureau
3-5 September	Implementation Committee 30 <sup>th</sup> meeting
10-14 September	WGSR 51 <sup>st</sup> session
14 September	EB Bureau
17-19 September	EMEP Steering Body 36 <sup>th</sup> session
20-21 September	Working Group on Effects 31 <sup>st</sup> session
10-14 December	Executive Body 30 <sup>th</sup> session
10 December	EB Bureau