

**NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING**  
**Thursday 13 September 2012**  
**Salle S-4, Palais des Nations**

***1. Revision of the Protocol on Heavy Metals***

The EB Bureau exchanged views on finalization of the negotiation process. The Chair of the WGSR listed several options conducive to the finalization of the negotiations, such as adding additional day(s) to the Executive Body session in December 2012, holding an ad-hoc EB meeting next year (that would also allow for taking into consideration the meeting outcomes on the global legally binding instrument on mercury), or holding a WGSR session in spring with subsequent adoption of amendments at the EB meeting in December 2013. The EU and US stressed the necessity and readiness to work intersessionally. The Russian Federation (RF) noted that in order to take a decision on the flexibility mechanisms to be included, it would be important to have the approval by the EECCA countries. Therefore, there was a need for a clean version of the draft amended text of the Protocol, as it had been difficult for these Parties to work with the version with tracked changes on the screen. The US and EU emphasized that translated negotiation text should be available, although the possibilities to consult with the Russian-speaking countries were limited, unless unofficial interpretation is provided by other means. The Bureau members discussed a “de minimis” proposal put forward by the US as another option, noting at the same time, that some EU member States might find it difficult to agree on it.

***2. Status of the finalization of the documents from the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Body on the adoption of the amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol***

The secretariat informed the Bureau about the status of the official post-session documents of the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Body and further procedures for forwarding the amendments to the depositary and the preparation of a consolidated clean version of the amended Protocol. It informed about the corrected version of the decision 2012/2 by the ad hoc group of legal experts that the secretariat had received on 5 September. The Bureau decided that the Chair supported by the secretariat would consider any remaining discrepancies between the above-mentioned document and

the text agreed at the May session, so that the secretariat would proceed with processing the final document as early as possible.

### ***3. Preparations for the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Executive Body***

The Bureau discussed the provisional agenda of the upcoming EB session. The secretariat reminded the Bureau of the revised versions of the Long-term strategies of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, respectively awaiting to be adopted by the Executive Body. The Bureau decided to include that issue into agenda item 8. Several Bureau members expressed concerns with regard to the reporting arrangement on agenda item 6, progress in the implementation of the 2012-2013 workplan, as it seemed to be time-consuming, and proposed to devote more time to the Protocol revision. It was decided to revise agenda item 6, retaining the current practice, so that only the chairs of subsidiary bodies would give short presentations.

The US suggested that the functions of the ad-hoc group of legal experts could be taken up by the secretariat. The Chair of WGSR stressed the need to reconfirm the mandate of the group. The Bureau agreed that the decision should be made in December.

The secretariat circulated a proposed template for reporting by expert groups/task forces in order to streamline, improve consistency, facilitate the identification of policy relevant issues and reduce the length of official reporting. The Bureau thanked the secretariat for this effort and agreed that it would be useful for future reporting exercises.

### ***4. UNECE activities aimed at promoting the LRTAP Convention***

The secretariat briefly informed that, in response to the request by the ad hoc group of experts, it had enquired with regard to options to ECE joining the Climate and Clean Air Coalition hosted by UNEP.

The US reminded about the letter by EB Chair to International Maritime Organization (IMO) with a proposal for cooperation with CLRTAP on air pollutant emission reductions from shipping that was sent in 2011. The EB Chair will write again to IMO. A follow-up action is needed in line with the idea of further outreach.

### ***5. Availability of past responses to the questionnaire on strategies and policies***

The secretariat circulated an explanatory note outlining the technical problem resulting from migration of the UN system to a new software system that made the database containing past responses to the questionnaire inaccessible for external

users. The secretariat assured that public access to responses would be restored in nearest time.

#### ***6. Date, time and place of next meeting***

The Bureau discussed the meetings plan for 2013, taking into account the finalization of negotiations on the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the high-level conference on transboundary air pollution to be held in Geneva with participation of EECCA countries, preliminarily scheduled for 16-19 September 2013. The conference will be organized by the Russian Federation with support from the European Commission (to be confirmed), and should be approved by the EB in December 2012. An initial idea was to hold the Conference back to back with the WGSR session; however, some members regarded this as problematic in view of a possible continuation of negotiations of amendments to the Protocol.

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 10 December 2012, preceding the next EB session to be held 11 - 13 December 2012.