

NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING
Friday, 3 May 2013
Room S4, Palais des Nations

Attendance: All Bureau members attended. Mr. P. Grennfelt participated via audio conference. Mr. A. Zuber attended as an observer on behalf of the EU. Mr. M. Keiner, Mr. S. Ludwiczak, Ms. A. Karadjova, Mr. K. Olendrzynski, Ms. F. Ilg, Ms. A. Novikova and Ms. K. Wenzel from the ECE secretariat attended. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Martin Williams, Chairman of the Executive Body.

1. *Results of the 51st session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review*

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR) informed the Bureau about the key results of the Working Group's 51st session. He noted that the new format of information exchange on the implementation of the Convention had proven to be successful along with a special session on the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). The Working Group had decided that exchanging information and good practices on the implementation of the Convention across the ECE region and on the challenges faced by countries in the EECCA region with regard to accession and implementation and successful approaches in the region would become a regular part of the WGSR meetings given that the negotiation process had been completed and the focus shifted to implementation. The WGSR Chair asked for the advice by the Bureau whether a systematic exchange of information as part of the Working Group's meetings could substitute the questionnaire on strategies and review. The Bureau welcomed this idea. However, it was noted that provisions of the convention and the protocols should be scrutinized first to ensure that this would be possible. Consideration of previous EB decisions would also be necessary to determine whether any would need to be repealed.

Action: a draft decision and supporting information to be prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and presented to the Executive Body in December 2013.

2. *Conclusions and recommendations by the ad-hoc group of experts (LTS Action Plan)*

The Bureau discussed the way forward with finalizing the work on the review of the organization and operational structure of the Convention and exchanged views on potential implications of taking decision on a possible merger of the two scientific bodies by the Executive Body in December 2013 and a deferral of that decision until a later stage, after the review of ICPs was completed. The Bureau underscored the importance of reassuring the Parties that there was no intention to cut the science-related activities, but on the contrary – to enhance them and to add visibility, to strengthen participation in effects-related work. It found

that in order to proceed with the implementation of a decision to be taken by the Executive Body in December, it would be important to further consider the implications of the different options.

Action: the secretariat to prepare a document setting out different options of the change of operational structure of the Convention's scientific bodies (merger, non-merger, staged and trial merger), potential consequences for each alternative, ways of operationalization, format of meetings, etc.

3. Preparations for the 2014-15 workplan under the Convention

The secretariat presented the draft outline of the 2014-15 workplan. It stressed that it was a work in progress, not all inputs from groups and centres had been integrated into it and the resource estimates were also preliminary. At this stage, it was important to agree on the format and structure in general, while the details would be filled in a subsequent version. Consequently, Bureau members were invited to provide comments on these general aspects. The Bureau agreed with the proposed general format structured by areas of the Convention's work, not by its bodies; however, raised concerns about the length of the document and the basis for the financial information set out in the draft. Inputs by EMEP and WGE should be further included, as well as other issues (e.g. calculating the deposition of black carbon in the Arctic, WHO review of health effects of ozone, update of critical loads, assessment report, etc.).

Action: Further comments on the draft workplan should be provided by Bureau members by 31 May 2013, including those arising from top-down policy views and existing priorities. Secretariat to prepare a revised version on the basis of these comments and the comments submitted to WGSR and circulate to all Parties for comments, as requested by WGSR. Comments will then be consolidated into a revised draft for the Bureau's review at its September meeting.

4. Reporting on strategies and policies

The secretariat informed that there had been only three nominations submitted for membership in the ad-hoc group of experts to review the structure of the questionnaire on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement even after the sending of a reminder. Given this low response and in view of the discussions under item 1, the Bureau decided not to proceed any further with developing a draft questionnaire in 2013 and agreed that the Executive Body should decide on further steps related to the work of the ad-hoc group and the questionnaire taking into account the outcomes of the session of WGSR and the discussion under item 1 above.

Action: the secretariat to inform the nominees that work will not proceed due to the low response level; the secretariat to integrate the points made above into the draft decision to be prepared for the Executive Body under item 1 above.

5. Follow-up to EB decisions related to compliance

The secretariat informed about existing resource implications stemming from the increased workload related to the revised ToR of the Implementation Committee as per Executive Body Decision 2012/25, compliance review of the Gothenburg Protocol since the availability of 2010 emission data and the increasing number of Protocols and Parties to them. The Chair of the Implementation Committee indicated that the majority of the increased workload stems from the referrals related to compliance with the Gothenburg Protocol, as 2013 is the first year that referrals regarding Gothenburg ceilings have been considered.

Furthermore, the Bureau discussed the issue of resource implications for the EMEP in connection to the application of adjustment procedure under the Gothenburg Protocol. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body (WGE) informed the Bureau about discussions within EMEP concerning the adjustment procedure stressing that CEIP has no mandate and no funds to carry out analysis of possible cases. Analysis of the adjustment procedure should not be part of the Stage-3 review as the review already suffers from insufficient number of reviewers. The Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections was finalizing the template to be used by Parties when submitting proposals for application of the adjustment.

The secretariat indicated that the issue was to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of TFEIP. The Bureau considered an option for conducting a review of the Parties' proposals for adjustments. The review would be carried out by a small group of experts selected from a list - approved by EMEP - of independent experts who could be available to conduct such reviews. It would be the role of the EMEP Steering Body to review and approve the work of these experts and to make respective recommendations to the EB. Parties requesting the application of the adjustment procedure would have to cover the costs related to this procedure.

Action: the secretariat to prepare a background document and a draft decision on the above option proposed for adoption by the Executive Body in December 2013.

6. Issues related to the session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

The Chair of the Working Group on Effects (WGE) informed the Bureau about the issues related to WGE (agenda of the next session of the WGE, ICP review, contribution to the Gothenburg Assessment Report, planned policy papers on biodiversity and ecosystems services and on biomass burning). During the sessions of both WGE and EMEP SB Parties would present their national work related to effects and EMEP. Exchange of information on national work will become a regular agenda item for the two bodies. EMEP and WGE would continue to integrate their activities through joint sessions (workshops), websites and country and assessment reports. The Bureau noted that it would be important to inform the Executive Body about the aspects of WGE work relevant from policy perspective.

7. UNECE activities aimed at promoting the LRTAP Convention in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

The secretariat informed the Bureau about its recent efforts to promote implementation and ratification of the Convention in the region, particularly in Central Asia, and presented a note outlining proposed future capacity-building activities based on existing needs expressed by the countries. The Bureau welcomed the note and appreciated the preparedness by Switzerland to support certain capacity-building activities. The Chair proposed to send a letter to Switzerland to express support for these activities and encourage Switzerland to fund them and requested the secretariat to draft such a letter. The secretariat informed that a letter to this effect will also be sent by the ECE to Switzerland. The EU informed the Bureau about the grant provided to the ECE to co-fund an extrabudgetary post in the Convention's secretariat as well as about another grant proposal of EUR 600,000 under consideration designed to cover travel expenses of experts from the EECCA region (including those from the Russian Federation) for their participation in the meetings of task forces and workshops during the period 2014-2016. Part of the grant could be used for the EMEP centres (CEIP, CCC) to strengthen their support to the EECCA countries in issues related to improvement of emission inventories including gridding. An advisory group set up for the overall project would discuss further steps on an annual basis. The secretariat and the EU encouraged other interested Parties also to provide their contribution. The decision on the grant proposal was expected to be taken in May-June 2013. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to the EU and Switzerland and noted the importance of this type of assistance.

Action: the ECE and the Chair to send letters to the head of the delegation of Switzerland to convey the support of the Bureau for the activities listed in the note by the secretariat.

8. Preparations for the 32nd session of the Executive Body (9-13 December) and the High level Meeting on Actions to Promote Improved Air Quality in the UNECE countries of EECCA

Mr. Vasiliev informed the Bureau about a unanimous decision of the members of the EECCA Coordinating Group to postpone the high-level meeting until 2014 based on a recent decision taken by the Environmental Ministers of the five EurAsEC member States to participate personally in the above-mentioned high-level meeting and their expressed wish to have sufficient time for the preparation (in case of the Russian Federation, there was a draft law on BAT expected to be adopted by the end of 2013). The financial contribution by the Russian Federation for the organization of the high-level meeting had been already deposited and could be used in 2014 instead of 2013. The EU noted that in that case it would have to seek new resources the following year; it also underscored the importance of an effective agenda of the meeting, involvement of key note speakers and public visibility. The Bureau agreed that although the decision on the high-level meeting was expected to be taken by the Executive Body in December 2013, preparation could start earlier in an "offline" mode.

9. Cooperation with other organizations

a) Cooperation with the UNECE Water Convention

The secretariat informed the Bureau about potential cooperation with the ECE Water Convention in view of possible synergies between the work of the CLRTAP Task Force on

Reactive Nitrogen and the work under the Water Convention, in particular, its work on a new assessment on the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus.

b) Cooperation with the Stockholm Convention on POPs

The secretariat also informed the Bureau about an informal query from the Stockholm Convention related to the global monitoring of POPs in light of on-going preparatory work for the next round of global reports in 2015. The Bureau agreed that in case the CLRTAP received a formal invitation for cooperation and transfer of information, the issue would need further scrutiny by the Executive Body, as well as consideration of an option of cost-sharing with the Stockholm Convention of certain activities in the workplan.

c) Cooperation with the CCAC

Two documents had been circulated to support the deliberations of the Bureau on this issue. As requested by the Bureau at its meeting in December 2012, the secretariat had prepared and presented a note on the options for interaction (ECE to join as a non-state partner, to join as an observer or not to join) with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) hosted by UNEP and possible resource implications for the CLRTAP. In addition to it, the Chair had circulated a note from IUAPPA to the Bureau describing the benefits of closer cooperation between CCAC and the Convention.

In presenting the option 2 (the ECE joining as an observer), the secretariat stressed that this was not a long-term option, but interested partners were invited to observe 1 or 2 meetings in order to decide whether to become a member. The secretariat drew attention to the letter of invitation it had received to observe the CCAC Working Group meeting held in March 2013 in Paris, referred to in the secretariat note. As stated in the note, the ECE did not attend in view of the matter still being under consideration by the Bureau.

The Chair noted that this letter was relevant to the discussions under this agenda item and should have been circulated to the Bureau members in order to assess whether the letter was a simple invitation to attend a meeting or it was an approach made by the CCAC for cooperation with the Convention. The latter case could make a difference to the outcome of the discussions.

The Chair of the Implementation Committee noted that the Working Group on Strategies and Review had taken this issue off the table without having seen the letter of invitation and the options document prepared by the Secretariat and that the EB Bureau did not have sufficient information to make a decision on engagement, in particular on the benefits for the Convention. Any such decision would also have to be taken by the EB itself and not by the Bureau.

The secretariat reiterated that the content of the letter was fully reflected in the first paragraph of section 2.2 of the note. It was an invitation from the CCAC secretariat to observe the Working Group meeting, specifying the dates of the meeting and the items for discussion. It was sent to the secretariat following the inquiries made with regard to the implications for the ECE to join, necessary to prepare the background note for the Bureau. It did not contain any

reference to the Convention. The secretariat considered that all the relevant information, with regard to the options, resource implications and benefits was presented in the two notes circulated to the Bureau prior to its meeting, but could also circulate the letter if the Bureau so wished.

Mr. Vasiliev expressed the view that it was not necessary to join the CCAC.

The Bureau decided that it could not make any decision on this matter before it sees the letter referred to the secretariat note and requested the secretariat to circulate the letter.

Action: the secretariat to forward to the Bureau an invitation received from the CCAC secretariat to participate in its meeting in March 2013 as an observer.

d) Cooperation with the Arctic Council

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review informed the Bureau of the intention of the Arctic Council to set up a working group on black carbon. When established, this group is likely to coordinate its work with the Convention in order to avoid duplication of work. It will at least seek information about the ongoing work on black carbon under the Convention.

The Chair added that the Bureau might also pose the question on such an interaction/information exchange to the Executive Body in December.

10. Demands on the secretariat and status of its resources

The secretariat informed the Bureau about the current status of its staff resources and distribution of tasks and responsibilities among its members.

11. Organization of work and meetings in 2014

There were no comments to the list of meetings for 2014 circulated by the secretariat to the Bureau.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Bureau decided to have its next meeting in the evening of 10 September 2013 in Geneva.

The Chair closed the meeting.