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

Thirty-sixth session

Geneva, 15 and 16 December 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Thursday, 15 December 2016*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its thirty-fifth session.
3. Report on credentials.
4. Matters arising from the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.
5. Review of implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan:
 - (a) Science;

* There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available on the web page for the meeting (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42117#/>), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit at the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section at the Pregny gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website (<http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of the documents mentioned in this provisional agenda to the meeting. There will be no official documentation available in the meeting room. Before the meeting, documents may be obtained directly from the web page for the meeting on the ECE Environment Division website or from the public United Nations Official Document System (ODS) website (<http://documents.un.org/>).

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- (b) Policy;
 - (c) Compliance;
 - (d) Capacity-building to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
 - (e) Communication and outreach.
6. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention.
 7. Election of officers.
 8. Other business.
 9. Adoption of decisions taken at the thirty-sixth session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Thursday, 15 December, morning

The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution is expected to adopt the agenda for its thirty-sixth session, as set out in the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session (ECE/EB.AIR/136)

2. Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its thirty-fifth session

Tentative timing: Thursday, 15 December, morning

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the report of its thirty-fifth session (Geneva, 2–4 May 2016), which was circulated by the secretariat to meeting participants following the session with a view to facilitating its smooth adoption.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Body on its thirty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/135)

3. Report on credentials

Tentative timing: Thursday, 15 December, morning

Delegations will be invited to submit their credentials to the secretariat during the session. The officers of the session will examine the credentials and report on them to the Executive Body. The Executive Body is expected to adopt the report on credentials.

4. Matters arising from the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

Tentative timing: Thursday, 15 December, morning

The secretariat will provide information on the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), which focused on “Improving air quality for a better environment and human health” as one of two main themes. The secretariat will specifically draw attention to the relevant Conference outcomes and the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative (ECE/BATUMI.CONF/2016/7), endorsed at the Conference. Countries and organizations having committed to actions under the initiative are encouraged to present any progress made and future plans.

5. Review of implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan

Tentative timing: Thursday, 15 December, afternoon, and Friday, 16 December, morning

The Executive Body will be invited to review and provide further guidance on the implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1).

(a) Science

The Chair of the Executive Body, in cooperation with the secretariat, will report on the launch of *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (2016 Assessment Report)¹ (Brussels, 31 May 2016). The Chairs of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects will report on the outcomes of the second joint session of those bodies (Geneva, 13–16 September 2016) and highlight conclusions and recommendations for the consideration by the Executive Body (see ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2016/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2016/2, forthcoming). The Executive Body will be invited to take note of the report and to provide guidance, as requested. In particular, it will be invited to amend the relevant items of the 2016–2017 workplan, as suggested by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of The Netherlands which hosts the Coordination Centre for Effects² and to discuss the financing of its activities.

(b) Policy

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will report on the outcomes of the fifty-fourth session of the Working Group (Geneva, 13–14 December 2016). He will particularly draw attention to the special session held on the Sustainable Development Goals and to the exchange of information, experiences and good practices to promote the implementation of the Convention’s protocols, in line with Executive Body

¹ Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds. (Oslo, 2016), available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrtapwelcome/publications.htm>. There is a separate report for North America by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 — North America* (2016, online report).

² See informal document presented at the Second Joint Meeting of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 13–16 September 2016) under agenda item 7 (b): Annex 1: Feasibility of CCE Items of the workplan of the LRTAP Convention_8 March 2016, available from: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40002#/>

decision 2013/2. The Executive Body will be invited to evaluate the effectiveness of decision 2013/2, taking into account the exchange of experiences during the dedicated sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review during the period 2013–2016 and the overview of the status of reporting prepared by the secretariat.

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will also present the draft Guidance Document on Methodologies for the Calculation and Measurement of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds, as agreed by the Working Group. The Executive Body will be invited to adopt the guidance document.

The Chair of the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention, established by the Executive Body at its thirty-fifth session (see ECE/EB.AIR/135, annex II, decision 2016/1) will report on the Group's progress and preliminary findings. The Executive Body will be requested to provide guidance for the further work of the Group, taking into account the discussions held at the fifty-fourth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 13–14 December 2016).

At the initiative of the Chair, Parties will be invited in turn to present the steps taken towards the ratification of or accession to the three most recently amended protocols to the Convention, i.e., the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants. At its thirty-fifth session, the Executive Body invited all Parties to provide to the secretariat short informal reports on their progress in the ratification of the three amended Protocols by 30 November 2016 (ECE/EB.AIR/135, para. 19). Parties will be invited to base their oral reports on the short informal reports submitted.

Documentation

Draft Guidance Document on Methodologies for the Calculation and Measurement of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2016/4)

Overview of the status of reporting on strategies, policies and measures to implement the Convention and its Protocols in line with Executive Body decision 2013/2 (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/8)

(c) Compliance

The Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on the implementation of workplan item 3 on compliance. He will present the nineteenth report on the Committee's work (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/7), prepared based on the outcomes of the Committee's thirty-seventh session (Geneva, 13–15 September 2016). The Executive Body will be invited to consider the Committee's report and recommendations.

At its thirty-first session (Geneva, 11–13 December 2012), the Executive Body elected one member of the Implementation Committee for a term of two years, and re-elected that member for another term at its thirty-third session (Geneva, 8–12 December 2014). At its thirty-fifth session, the Executive Body re-elected two members of the Implementation Committee for a third term, and elected five new members of the Implementation Committee. It also elected a Chair of the Committee from among its members. It postponed the election of one remaining Committee member to its thirty-sixth session. The Executive Body is thus invited to elect two members of the Implementation Committee.

Documentation

Nineteenth report on the work of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/7)

(d) **Capacity-building to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**

The Chair of the coordinating group on the promotion of actions towards the implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Coordinating Group), other bodies under the Convention and the secretariat will report on the implementation of workplan item 4 — capacity-building to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. They will give an overview of the actions taken to strengthen the ratification and implementation of the Convention and its protocols and to increase cooperation and exchange of information between the countries of the subregion, as well as to support their participation in the work of the Convention. Delegations will be invited to provide information on their efforts to implement and ratify the most recent protocols under the Convention and any needs for capacity-building and assistance. The Executive Body is expected to take note of the information provided.

(e) **Communication and outreach**

The secretariat will provide an update on communication and outreach activities and cooperation with relevant international organizations to implement workplan item 5, complementing the information provided to the Executive Body at its thirty-fifth session. The Executive Body will be invited to consider the information provided.

6. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Friday, 16 December, afternoon

The secretariat will inform the Executive Body about the status of Parties' contributions to the trust funds for financing the implementation of the Convention in 2015–2016 and the expenditures in 2015.

Based on the recommendation of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, the Executive Body is expected, inter alia, to approve: (a) the detailed use of resources for EMEP in 2017; (b) the essential international coordination costs for financing the core activities of the Convention and its protocols, other than those covered by the EMEP Protocol; and (c) the respective scales of mandatory and recommended contributions in 2017–2018, taking into consideration that the Republic of Moldova joined the EMEP Protocol on 26 July 2016 and that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2015 scale of assessment on 23 December 2016 (A/RES/70/245).

Documentation

Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/6)

7. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Friday, 16 December, afternoon

At its twenty-eighth session (Geneva, 13–17 December 2010), the Executive Body adopted its rules of procedure (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/19), and subsequently amended them (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1, decision 2013/1) at its thirty-second session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2013).

In accordance with rule 17, the Executive Body elected its Chair at its thirty-third session for an initial term of two years. Further to the same rule, it elected two Vice-Chairs at its

thirty-second session and one Vice-Chair at its thirty-third session. In accordance with rule 21, it elected a Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its thirty-first session for a first term, re-electing him for a second term at its thirty-third session. In line with rules 17 and 21, the Executive Body is therefore expected to elect a Chair and three Vice-Chairs of the Executive Body and a Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. In accordance with these rules, officers are eligible for re-election, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms unless the Executive Body decides otherwise.

8. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 16 December, afternoon

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this agenda item. Parties wishing to propose any other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

9. Adoption of decisions taken at the thirty-sixth session

Tentative timing: Friday, 16 December, afternoon

The Executive Body may wish to adopt its decisions taken during the session, and on this basis, to entrust the secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair, with the finalization of the report.
