



Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment

> Return address Postbus 20901 2500 EX Den Haag

The Chair of the Executive Body of the Convention on
Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
MS Anna Engleryd
Palais des Nation
8-14 Avenue de la Paix CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

**Directoraat-Generaal
Milieu en Internationaal**
Dir. Klimaat, Lucht en Geluid
Plesmanweg 1-6
Den Haag
Postbus 20901
2500 EX Den Haag

Contact

ir. M.P.E. Janssens
*Beleidscoördinator Duurzame
Industrie*

T 070-4561988
michel.janssens@minienm.nl

Date **12 JULI 2016**
Subject Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution;
Coordination Centre for Effects

Kenmerk

IENM/BSK-2016/130331

Dear Ms. Engleryd, dear Anna,

At the 35th session of the Executive Body of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, the Dutch delegation was asked to explain in writing the current status and financing of the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE), which is hosted at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). This letter is a response to the Executive Body's request.

Ever since the establishment of the CCE, the Netherlands has financed the Centre's activities in order to gain more scientific knowledge on the sensitivity of the different types of ecosystems in the EMEP area to (acid) depositions originating from air pollution, and in order to render this information useful in integrated assessment modelling. Thanks to 25 years of close international cooperation, we have gained a much better understanding of the negative environmental effects of sulphur and nitrogen deposition. The CCE Status Report 2015, which was published in April 2016, reflects the present state of knowledge in this field. Considering the knowledge obtained in combination with the findings of the scientific assessment report published on 31 May 2016, the Netherlands is of the opinion that the Convention should continue all aspects of its work, including medium-term policy initiatives (up to 2030). I would like to add that the Convention's activities in the short term should mainly focus on the entry into force and implementation of the amended protocols (particularly the Gothenburg Protocol and the Protocol on Heavy Metals), with the aim of further reducing air pollutant emissions in the region covered by the UNECE.

In view of the above considerations and given the need for general cuts in the public budget of the Netherlands, I have decided – with regret – to discontinue the financing of the CCE as of 2017.

This decision will come as no surprise, since it was announced on several occasions from 2014 onwards, for instance at the meeting of the EMEP Steering Body in 2015. The budget available for financing the CCE's activities has varied in the past 25 years. In recent years, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the

Environment ensured that approx. EUR 500,000 per year was available. The budget for 2016 has already been limited to EUR 200,000. At the 35th session of the Executive Body, however, it turned out that quite a number of parties to the Convention would like the CCE to continue its work. Some parties showed serious interest in assuming (partial) responsibility for the financing of the CCE's activities. Parties willing to do so are invited to contact RIVM directly in order to make the necessary arrangements.

Finally, I would like to thank all parties involved for their constructive cooperation with RIVM over more than 25 years. They made an essential contribution to the success of the effect-oriented protocols agreed under the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,

plv.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C.B.F. Kuijpers', with a horizontal line underneath.

C.B.F. Kuijpers