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Our reference

029/2016 M&V/EvS/JH

Dealt with by

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Date 8 March 2016
Subject Contribution to the Prioritization of CCE Work plan items

Dear Ms. Engleryd,

Dear Anna,

The Dutch decision to reduce the support to the Convention work plan 2016-2017 of RIVM-CCE activities by more than 60% (and 100% as of 2018), leaves an operational budget of 200 k€ in 2016 and possibly even less or none in 2017. This makes it necessary for the RIVM (and the convention) to collaborate with the Executive Body to agree on a revised, feasible, contribution of RIVM-CCE activities to the Convention work plan for 2016-2017, guided by the financial constraints. The decision at the 34th session of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/122) to continue the general discussion on the financing of science and effects related activities at its 35th session (Geneva, 2-4 May 2016) incited the RIVM management further to seek options for a constructive contribution to this discussion. However, at the same time it must unfortunately be noted that current conditions have it that a shut down before 2018 cannot be avoided by RIVM. RIVM would like to propose a downsized CCE contribution to the work plan in which the financial constraints are matched with the priority areas of the work plan.

While the work plan 2016-2017 includes 13 elements (See annex 1) where a CCE contribution is implied, RIVM feels that the activities related to maintaining and updating the European critical loads database are of most significant importance to the support of effect based science and policy support under the Convention. This includes the collaboration with the network of the ICP Modelling and Mapping as a follow up to the call for data 2015-2017 that was proposed at the 31st session of Task Force M&M (Zagreb, 20-23 April 2015) and adopted by the Parties at the 1st session of the WGE/EMEP (see ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2015/2, para 51b).

The call for data has a deadline in March 2017, by which date at least the digital consolidation could be ensured sufficiently by RIVM, hopefully also meeting any requirements for a transfer of the CCE database to a location the Executive Body may wish to give guidance to.

If at all, depending on funding in 2017, a presentation of the results to the Task Force M&M meeting in 2017 (probably April 2017) might then become the last RIVM-CCE activity in the course of the work plan 2016-2017.

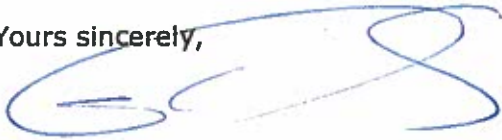
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I expect that the Executive Body values this RIVM effort to support a small, yet important part of the Dutch lead-country role in the work plan of the Convention.

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Meanwhile I hope that RIVM-CCE funding requirements for the 2016-2017 work plan can be completed to an extent whereby prioritization of work plan elements 2016-2017 becomes less important.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a horizontal line at the bottom.

E.C.M. (Els) van Schie, PhD
Director Environment and Safety Division