

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

**Bureau**

**Meeting**

Geneva, 10 December 2017

### **Report of the meeting**

#### **I. Attendance**

*Bureau members:* Ms. Anna Engleryd (Sweden, Chair), Mr. Sergey Vasiliev (Russian Federation), Mr. Richard Ballaman (Switzerland), Mr. Jennifer Kerr (Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review), Ms. Laurence Rouil (Chair of the EMEP Steering Body), and Ms. Isaura Rabago (Chair of the Working Group on Effects).

*Observers:* Ms. Kimber Scavo for Ms. Katherine Weber (United States of America) and Mr. Roel Hoenders (European Union).

*Not present:* Ms. Katherine Weber (United States of America) and Mr. Manfred Ritter (Chair of the Implementation Committee).

#### **II. Preparations for the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body**

The Bureau discussed the provisional agenda (ECE/EB.AIR/139) of the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body, the organization of the session and the decisions the Executive Body was expected to adopt.

#### **III. The draft 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention**

The Bureau noted the improved structure of the workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/1) after the regular activities of the task forces and centres had been moved to their mandates. The Bureau members discussed the ways to reflect the workplan items, the implementation of which was subject to funds availability. They pointed out that the amount to be received to fund the effects related work was usually not known and not sufficient to cover all desired activities. This situation was different from the one with the EMEP activities to a large part covered by mandatory contributions. The Bureau agreed that this information, together with the encouragement to provide contributions, should be communicated to Parties. Although the CCE would not be functioning in 2018, the overall funding for the effects oriented activities should not be decreased, and the data generated by the national focal centres in response to the call for data issued

by CCE and ICP Modelling and Mapping should be stored by Parties for subsequent use. The Bureau agreed that it was better that the Executive Body adopted the workplan including partially funded and unfunded items, and that a respective remark be included in the session report.

#### **IV. Informal meeting between the European Commission and representatives of the Convention**

The Chair of the Executive Body and the representative of the European Union informed the Bureau about the informal meeting between representatives of the European Commission (Mr. Francois Wakenhut, Mr. Scott Brockett and Mr. Roald Wolters) and the Convention (Ms. Anna Engleryd and Mr. Till Spranger,) that took place on 29 November 2017 in Brussels. A number of issues were discussed, in particular the need for progress in ratification of the amended protocols in particular from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, capacity-building in the EECCA region and the need for awareness-raising among decision-makers and politicians throughout the UNECE region.

The progress with improved emission data reporting by EECCA countries was noted. At the same time, the representatives of the European Commission stressed the importance of EECCA countries and the secretariat to better communicate their needs and the results of the support provided as well as demonstrating progress towards ratification.

The European Commission was trying to align its technical cooperation programmes, including a number of bilateral projects, with priorities under the Convention. The upcoming European Forum on Eco-Innovation focused on air quality (Sofia, February 2018) was seen as an opportunity to raise awareness among decision-makers and politicians from especially Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

#### **V. Organization of work and meetings in 2018-2019**

The Bureau considered the draft list of meetings and documents of the main subsidiary bodies for 2018-2019 (informal document no.6) compiled by the secretariat. The list was going to be presented to the Executive Body for adoption. No particular comments were made by the Bureau.

#### **VI. Proposal to change name of the Executive Body**

The Chair of the Executive Body invited the Bureau members to share their views on the proposal to change the name of the Executive Body to the Conference of the Parties. The Bureau considered that, on the one hand, it might be beneficial to use the new name of the governing body for branding and raising visibility of the Convention, but on the other hand, Parties should be careful with taking legal steps towards changing the name. Having both official and branding names may not simplify the work of the Convention.

The secretariat informed the Bureau of the query sent to the UN Office of Legal Affairs regarding this issue. The response received indicated the need for an amendment to the Convention, or, possibly, to the rules of procedure, depending on whether other changes were considered. The Bureau agreed to come back to the discussion of an idea to use the branding name “Conference of the Parties” for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention.

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

The Bureau agreed to hold its next meeting on 22 February 2018 in Madrid, after the meeting of the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (19-21 February 2018).

## **VIII. Other business**

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review informed the Bureau about the resolution adopted at the third session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (Nairobi, 4-6 December 2017) on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally, which included reference to the Convention and the BACA initiative. The Bureau stressed the need to strengthen cooperation with UNEP Nairobi on the implementation of this resolution.