

## **Economic Commission for Europe**

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

**Bureau of the Executive Body**

**Meeting**

Geneva, 20 May 2019

### **Report of the meeting**

#### **I. Attendance**

*Bureau members:* Ms. Anna Engleryd (Sweden, Chair), Mr. Sergey Vasiliev (Russian Federation), Mr. Richard Ballaman (Switzerland), Ms. Elizabeth Nichols (United States of America), Ms. 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. Susanne Lindahl (European Union).

*Not present:* Mr. Manfred Ritter (Chair of the Implementation Committee).

#### **II. Preparations for the fifty-seventh session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review**

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review informed the Bureau about the main issues in the agenda of the fifty-seventh session (Geneva, 21-24 May 2019). Among those, she listed the draft Code of good practice for solid fuel burning and small combustion installations prepared by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, policy discussions to inform any future review of the Gothenburg Protocol, the discussion of the policy part of the draft 2020-2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, the information sharing session, the workshop on air pollution abatement, including to reduce air pollutants that are also short-lived climate pollutants, the discussion of the proposal for the forum for cooperation and preparations for the celebration of the Convention's anniversary.

Concerning the policy discussions, the Chair of the Working Group referred to the organization of the previous review process and informed the Bureau of the intention to organize the discussion in clusters and to prepare a document that could guide the discussion during the session. She noted the progress in acceptance of amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol by its Parties and suggested that a link to the future review was included in the draft workplan. The Bureau member from Switzerland informed the Bureau that Switzerland was going to submit its acceptance letter after 11 July 2019, becoming the eighteenth Party to accept the amendments and thus allowing for the Protocol as amended to enter into force.

### **III. Issues related to the activities of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects**

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body informed the Bureau of the outcomes of the meeting of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP) (Potsdam, Germany, 25-26 April 2019). The meeting was hosted by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies and held back-to-back with the meeting of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling. The experts of both task forces discussed possibilities for cooperation in light of the future review of the Gothenburg Protocol. Furthermore, TFHTAP discussed the outputs of the HTAP2 experiment. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body did not consider the first draft report appropriate for the needs of the Convention, for this reason she asked the task force to prepare a 2-page document with clear messages for policy makers, which could be presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects and then forwarded to the Executive Body for consideration. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body further noted that the updated mandate of TFHTAP would be ready by September, and that the current work of the task force was led by Canada and the United States and facilitated by Co-chairs from Germany and Poland.

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body noted with regard to condensables issue that this year only 13 Parties provided explanation on the condensable part in their Informative Inventory Reports; however, this information was not clear enough. The issue was discussed by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, and there were difficulties in finding a solution or a guidance for that, as it was seen as not only a scientific, but also a political issue. She further stressed the need for correct emission input data for modelers. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body referred to a draft document shown by the delegate from the United States containing information on a technological solution to treat the condensable part of particulate matter, which could be used as an example. The Bureau noted that there was a need for cooperation between the emission, modeling and the monitoring communities, and that it could start with a discussion with the co-chairs of respective task forces and centres involving national experts, including experts from the United States.

The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body informed the Bureau of the meeting of the ICP Modelling and Mapping Task Force (Madrid, 2-4 April 2019), where priorities for the work of the Task Force and the Coordination Centre for Effects were discussed. They would be reflected in the workplan and in the draft mandate of the centre.

The Chair of the Working Group on Effects informed the Bureau about the progress in terms of cooperation with LifeWatch. She noted that the call for project proposals was published in April with a deadline of 14 July 2019 and overall budget of EUR 51 million. The decision on the projects funding was supposed to be taken within the two-month period after the deadline, so that the results would be known in September and respective activities would be included in the 2020-2021 workplan. At the end of May, activities of involved ICPs would be discussed and defined during the meeting in Sevilla.

The secretariat informed the Bureau about the status of financing the centres under the Convention. It noted that under UMOJA, the UN resources management system, the signing of the annual appendices to the MOUs with the centres was only possible if the

full amounts of the funding were available in the trust funds. For this reason, it was seen crucial that the Parties made their contributions earlier in the year, so that the full transfer could be made at once. The Bureau noted this information and suggested that a respective announcement was made during the WGSR session.

#### **IV. Implementation of the 2019-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention**

##### ***A. Maintaining contact with other regional networks and agreements (item 5.3.1)***

The Chair of the Executive Body presented the proposal on the forum for international cooperation on air pollution prepared by a group of Bureau members, which was going to be discussed at the upcoming WGSR session. She also announced that a contribution by Sweden of SEK 500,000 would be made to support the work of the secretariat and to cover travel expenses of participants from outside the ECE region. The Bureau agreed that it would develop a concept note and further discuss it at its meeting in September, followed by a brainstorming at the informal meeting in October.

The secretariat informed the Bureau of the decision by IPCC made at its 49<sup>th</sup> session to develop a global methodological guidance for emission inventories of short-lived climate forcers, including particulate matter, black carbon, ozone and secondary PM precursors. This could be seen as an opportunity to engage with the climate community and get visibility. On the other hand, there were Convention's experts involved in IPCC work through national representation who had been conveying messages from the air community for a number of years. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body pointed to the issue of resources and the need to prioritize the work under the Convention.

The Chair of the Executive Body briefed the Bureau on the fourth meeting of the International Management System (INMS) meeting (Nairobi, 29-30 April 2-19) held as a follow up to the UNEA-4 resolution on Nitrogen, where she participated in via video link. The meeting participants agreed that there should be increased cooperation among multilateral agreements working on nitrogen through a coordination mechanism organized under UNEP with support from INMS; a respective proposal was being prepared.

The secretariat informed the Bureau of the upcoming opportunities to promote the Convention at events dedicated to World Environment Day 2019, which had a theme of "Air Pollution".

##### ***B. Celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention (item 5.3.4)***

The secretariat provided an update on the preparations for the anniversary celebration. The overall budget had been increased to cover the costs of the high-level event and staff support. The secretariat noted that it had circulated invitation letters among the Parties at the level of ministers. The Bureau discussed the programme of the anniversary special session (11-12 December 2019), including the idea of adding a ceremony of honouring individuals whose contribution to the work of the Convention was significant. It agreed that the secretariat should send a letter of appreciation to these individuals and honor them by inviting them to the Anniversary session. It requested the secretariat to start compiling the list of individuals with proposals from the Bureau; nominations should also be gathered from the scientific community. The Bureau also

suggested that the scope of session 2 could be expanded not to single out one sub-region.

## **V. Capacity-building activities**

The secretariat informed the Bureau about the outcomes of the workshop to promote ratification of the protocols to the Convention with a focus on countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Berlin, 14-16 May 2019) hosted by Germany and co-organized by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues. Furthermore, it provided information on its planned capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, which included high-level meetings and roundtables to present the results of the analysis of national legislation and workshops on emission inventories in Armenia and Azerbaijan in September - October 2019.

## **VI. Preparations for the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body**

The secretariat informed the Bureau of the timeline for submission and the list of official pre-session documents. As there would be less time for the Executive Body to discuss regular issues, it was suggested that Parties sent their comments on documents in advance of the session by given deadlines, so that the secretariat could display them on the website. The Bureau stressed the need for the subsidiary bodies to finalize their work on a document before submitting it to the Executive Body in order to facilitate adoption; otherwise, consideration should be postponed until the next session. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body noted that the text of the draft EMEP monitoring strategy was almost finalized, which was not the case for the updated strategies for EMEP and effects-oriented activities. For this reason, she suggested to postpone their submissions until 2020.

The Bureau member from Canada (Chair of WGSR) informed that Canada would make a proposal for revision of the Rules of procedure and submit it as informal document before the session. The Bureau agreed that the Executive Body could task the ad-hoc group of legal experts to make changes in the document.

## **VII. Other business**

The Chair informed the Bureau of a project of the World Bank on non-communicable diseases within the Global Environmental Health, Pollution Management and Circular Economy Program (GEHCEP) targeting low- and middle-income countries, which included a component on diseases related to air pollution. A respective presentation would be circulated among Bureau members for their feedback and ideas for potential cooperation.

The Chair of WGSR informed the Bureau that the fifth meeting of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues would be hosted by Canada in October 2019 with a workshop on SLCPs held back-to-back.

## **VIII. Date, time and place for the next meeting**

The next meeting of the Bureau is scheduled for 9 September 2019. The Chair invited Bureau members for an informal meeting in Stockholm (16-17 October 2019).