

Decision 2019/11

Revised mandate for the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East

The Executive Body,

Recalling the provisions of article 9 and other relevant provisions of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Recalling also the provisions of the Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP Protocol),

Noting that the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East has been in operation since 1979 – the beginning of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) – as one of the three cooperating international centres of EMEP,

Recalling the terms of reference for the international EMEP centres (EB.AIR/GE.1/8, annex IV), adopted at its fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/10),

Recognizing the Centre's contribution to the scientific assessment of past trends and current status in air pollution throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and to the evaluation of the implementation of the Protocols to the Convention,

Acknowledging the support provided by the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East to the Parties to the Convention and EMEP, among other things, through the following actions:

- (a) Continuously maintaining and promoting the development of modelling tools essential for the verification of the impact of the actions taken on pollutants emission reduction in the ECE region, in particular for heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs);
- (b) Extending the EMEP model to the global scale to support assessment of the impact of heavy metals and POPs in the Northern hemisphere;
- (c) Contributing to the evaluation and improvement of emission data reported by the Parties and supporting the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections in gap-filling for heavy metals and POPs emissions that are not correctly documented;
- (d) Contribution to the elaboration of assessment reports and trend analyses of air pollution concentrations and deposition in the EMEP domain over the past 40 years;
- (e) Conducting several pilot studies with national experts to investigate the reasons for discrepancies between emissions, measurements and modelling results in some countries;
- (f) Supporting the sharing, use and evaluation of EMEP models as tools for the assessment of air pollution transport and deposition at the national and regional levels by the Parties.

Recognizing the need to update the mandate of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended Protocols to the Convention, as well as its strategic priorities as set out in the following documents:

- (a) The long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex);
- (b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention;¹

¹ See Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds., *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (Oslo, 2016) and United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 – North America* (2016).

(c) The policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4).

Noting that the annual costs of the centres cooperating within EMEP for the activities appearing in the work programme of the Steering Body of EMEP are covered in accordance with the EMEP Protocol, from contributions by the Parties to the Convention on the basis of the annual EMEP budget approved by the Executive Body upon the recommendation of the Steering Body to EMEP:

1. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East by the Russian Federation;
2. *Adopts* the revised mandate of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Centre to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter time frame will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;
3. *Decides* that the Centre is responsible for communicating with national experts, for maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on its work, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the biennial workplan;
4. *Decides* that the Centre is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, and reporting thereon, as well as for keeping other relevant bodies apprised of its work.

Annex

Revised mandate for the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East

1. The Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East will continue to provide scientific support to the Convention with information on modelling of heavy metals (lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd) and mercury (Hg)) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans (PCDD/Fs) and hexachlorobenzene (HCB)).
2. The Centre reports on its activities and deliverables to the Steering Body to EMEP.
3. The functions of the Centre are to:
 - (a) Prepare data on anthropogenic emissions of heavy metals and POPs on the regional (EMEP domain) and global scales, including auxiliary parameters (for example, emission height, temporal variation and chemical composition) as input for operational modelling based on gridded emission data sets provided by Centre for Emission Inventories and Projections and expert estimates;
 - (b) Prepare input data required for modelling of heavy metals and POPs on the regional and global scales, including wind suspension of mineral dust and atmospheric concentrations of chemical reactants and particulate matter;
 - (c) Collect and process measurement data for evaluation of model performance from various monitoring networks and databases (for example, EBAS, AirBase, Global Mercury Observation System and United Nations Environment Programme Stockholm Convention Global Monitoring Plan Data Warehouse);
 - (d) Update the modelling tools with new findings and improved parameterizations developed by the Centre in its research activities in accordance with the biennial workplan and in cooperation with the scientific community;
 - (e) Perform simulations of heavy metals and POPs dispersion on a global scale for evaluation of intercontinental transport of Hg and POPs and its impact on pollution levels in the EMEP countries;
 - (f) Perform further testing and evaluation of model performance in simulations of air concentration and deposition levels, as well as source-receptor relationships of heavy metals and POPs on the new EMEP grid;

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- (g) Perform operational model assessment of heavy metal (Pb, Cd and Hg) and POP (PAHs, PCBs, PCDD/Fs and HCB) pollution levels over the EMEP domain;
- (h) Perform quality assurance and quality control of modelling results through evaluation against measurements from the EMEP and other monitoring networks;
- (i) Provide support to Parties to the Convention in using the model assessment results and access to the modelling tools, and, in particular, present and discuss results of national scale case studies and other research activities on heavy metal and POP pollution with fine resolution;
- (j) Prepare annual status reports and individual country reports for the EMEP countries and make results of model calculations available online at the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East website; develop and maintain a website in Russian to facilitate access to information by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (k) Continue collaboration with the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops on the evaluation of heavy metal pollution levels in Europe using modelling results and measurements in mosses and develop cooperation with other International Cooperative Programmes; provide support to the Coordination Centre for Effects with information on ecosystem-specific deposition heavy metals and POPs for assessment of critical load exceedances; contribute to the Task Force on Health with information on toxic substances (PAHs, PCDD/Fs and others);
- (l) Cooperate on dissemination of information and data exchange with international bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission;
- (m) Report on its activities and deliverables to the Steering Body to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects and participate in annual meetings of the relevant task forces (Task Force on Measurements and Modelling, Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution);
- (n) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by the EMEP Steering Body and the Executive Body.