

Decision 2020/2

Plan for undertaking the review of the Protocol to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, pursuant to its article 10

The Executive Body,

Acknowledging the significant work that has continued despite the challenges faced by the Convention due to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

Recalling article 10 (2) of the Protocol to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 (“the Gothenburg Protocol” or “the Protocol”), which indicates that Parties shall keep under review the obligations set out in the Protocol, including the adequacy of the obligations and the progress made towards the achievement of the objective of the Protocol,

Recalling also its decision 2019/4 to initiate the review of the Gothenburg Protocol,¹ and requesting the Working Group on Strategies and Review to develop a plan for the review that includes its scope and content, as well as a detailed work schedule for the review, including the procedure for undertaking it,

Noting article 10 (3) of the Protocol, which indicates that the review shall include an evaluation of mitigation measures for black carbon emissions, and article 10 (4) of the Protocol, which indicates that the review shall include an evaluation of ammonia control measures and consider the need to revise annex IX, no later than at the second session of the Executive Body after entry into force,

Noting also the informal information submitted and presented for consideration at the fifty-eighth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review related to progress on the elements of the review referred to in article 10 (3) and (4),

Welcoming document ECE/EB.AIR/2020/3–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2020/3 entitled Preparations for the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 (the preparatory document) as the plan for the review,

Emphasizing that the inclusion of any particular element in the review should not be taken to mean that this element would be included in any possible future revision of the Protocol,

1. *Decides* that the scope of the review should remain broad at this time, and that the review should focus on information-gathering, scientific and technical inputs and assessing the information collected;
2. *Requests* that the Convention’s subsidiary bodies consider the tasks contained in annex I to the Preparatory Document to be carried out to support the review of the Gothenburg Protocol and requests implicated bodies to submit to the secretariat, by 1 February 2021, timelines for completion and initial input; and that any further input from implicated bodies, in consideration of the tasks in annex I to the preparatory document, be submitted as informal documents for consideration at the fifty-ninth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;
3. *Also requests* that the Convention’s subsidiary bodies undertake to provide and submit to the secretariat the scientific and technical inputs referred to in annex I to the preparatory

¹ ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.1.

document and take note of the amendment to the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, as adopted at the fortieth session of the Executive Body;

4. *Requests* the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to compile the inputs and information received into an annotated outline for consideration at the fifty-ninth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review; to undertake the policy-related work of the review, including assessing the policy implications of the information received; and to elaborate and prepare the report of the review, including its conclusions;

5. *Decides* that the procedure for carrying out the review is contained in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above and that the preliminary work schedule for the review is as contained in annex II to the preparatory document, subject to any modifications as a result of the timelines provided for in paragraph 2 above;

6. *Takes note of* the progress made in taking stock of mitigation measures for black carbon emissions and of ammonia control measures as described in the informal documents “Considerations for ammonia relevant to future review of the Gothenburg Protocol” and “Draft guidance document on prioritizing reductions of particulate matter so as to also achieve reduction of black carbon”,² and concludes that the evaluations required by article 10 (3) and (4) relating to black carbon emissions and ammonia control measures, including consideration of the need to revise annex IX, have been initiated;

7. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue to develop the evaluations referred to in paragraph 6 above as part of the broader review process, and invites Parties to submit comments on the information in the informal documents referenced in paragraph 6 above, as well as any additional views, by 1 February 2021, and that any further input be submitted as informal documents to be taken into consideration at the fifty-ninth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review as the evaluations are further developed;

8. *Requests* that the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review provide updates on progress, along with any updates to the work schedule, to the session of the Executive Body in December 2021, and to subsequent Executive Body sessions as appropriate.

² Available at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-strategies-and-review-fifty-eighth-session>.