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Economic Commission for Europe**Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range
Transboundary Air Pollution****Forty-first session**

Geneva, 6–8 December 2021

Items 4 (b), 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda

Review of the implementation of the 2020–2021 workplan: policy**Financial requirements for implementation of the Convention****Forum for international cooperation on air pollution****Draft decisions of the Executive Body****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document contains draft decisions for consideration and adoption by the Executive Body.

The Executive Body is invited to adopt the following draft guidance documents forwarded to it by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-ninth session (Geneva, 18–21 May 2021):

- (a) Draft guidance document on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/5);
- (b) Prioritizing reductions of particulate matter from sources that are also significant sources of black carbon – analysis and guidance (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/6).

Following the change of the host institution of the Programme Centre for the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems and the recommendation by the Working Group on Effects to the Executive Body to amend decision 2002/1 (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2021/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2021/2, forthcoming), the Executive Body is expected to adopt an amendment to its decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities.

The Executive Body is also invited to consider the proposal by the European Union, as forwarded to it by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-ninth session, for a decision on methodology to update tables 2–6 of annex II to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, to account for changes in the membership of the European Union.

At its fifty-ninth session, the Working Group on Strategies and Review recommended to the Executive Body that the forum for international cooperation on air pollution be established as a task force reporting to the Working Group and welcomed the willingness of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to lead the work of



the forum.^a The Executive Body is invited to consider the draft decision on the mandate for the task force prepared by the lead countries.

^aECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/126 (advance version), para. 38. Available at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-strategies-and-review-fifty-ninth-session>

I. Adoption of the Guidance document on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning

The Executive Body,

Recalling item 2.2.2 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.2),

Recognizing the importance of reducing emissions of air pollutants, including those that are also short-lived climate pollutants, from agricultural residue burning to mitigate their adverse effect on human health, environment and economy,

Decides to adopt the Guidance document on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2021/5.

II. Adoption of the guidance document entitled “Prioritizing reductions of particulate matter from sources that are also significant sources of black carbon – analysis and guidance”

The Executive Body,

Recalling the Long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.2, decision 2018/5),

Recalling also item 2.2.1 of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.2),

Decides to adopt the guidance document entitled “Prioritizing reductions of particulate matter from sources that are also significant sources of black carbon – analysis and guidance” contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2021/6.

III. Amendment to decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision 2002/1¹ on the financing of core activities, paragraph 1 (c) and appendix I, as amended by decisions 2018/8 and 2019/22,

Recalling also its decision 2019/18 on the Revised mandate for the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems,

Expressing its gratitude to Finland for having hosted the Programme Centre for the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems at the Finnish Environment Institute for the since 1988, when planning of the Integrated Monitoring database began,

Welcoming the offer of Sweden to host the Programme Centre as of 2021,

Decides to amend its decision 2002/1, appendix I, as follows:

After “Programme Centre for the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems”, the words “at the Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, Finland” are replaced by “at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden”.

¹ All Executive Body decisions referred to in the present decision are available at <https://unece.org/decisions>.

IV. Updating the emission baseline and emission reduction commitments of the European Union per pollutant set out in tables 2–6 of annex II to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, to account for changes in the membership of the European Union

The Executive Body,

Considering that changes in the membership of the European Union should be reflected in its emission baseline and its emission reduction commitments per pollutant set out in tables 2–6 of annex II to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (the Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012,

Noting that a methodology to update the emission baseline and the emission reduction commitments per pollutant, based exclusively on a mathematical calculation using only information that is already set out in tables 2–6 of annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, needs to be established to account for changes in the membership of the European Union,

Recalling the invitation by the Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution at the thirty-sixth session of the Executive Body to the European Union to consider ways forward regarding possible procedures by which the ceilings of the Gothenburg Protocol could be adjusted to reflect European Union membership;¹ noting that the considerations regarding the emission ceilings of the European Union also apply to the emission reduction commitments of the European Union,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, on 7 October 2019,

1. *Decides*, without prejudice to article 13, paragraph 1, of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, to establish a methodology for updating the emission baselines and emission reduction commitments for 2020 and beyond per pollutant, expressed in reduction percentage from 2005 levels, both set out for the European Union in tables 2–6 of annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, in the event of changes in the membership of the European Union, as follows:

(a) The European Union emission baseline per pollutant shall be the sum of the emission baselines per pollutant for the European Union member States, taking into account any accession to or withdrawal from the European Union;

(b) The European Union emission reduction commitments per pollutant in tables 2–6 of annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, shall be calculated by:

(i) Applying to the 2005 emission levels of each European Union member State the reduction commitments for 2020 of that European Union member State, resulting in the reductions to be achieved, in kilotons;

(ii) Adding together the reductions to be achieved for all European Union member States in kilotons as calculated under (i) above;

(iii) Calculating the reduction percentage for the European Union by dividing the sum of the reductions to be achieved as calculated under (ii) above by the sum of the 2005 emission baselines of each European Union member State, in kilotons, and multiplying the result by 100.

2. *Also decides* that the European Union shall communicate the emission baselines for 2005 and the updated emission reduction commitments per pollutant, updated to account for changes in the membership of the European Union based on the methodology as set out in paragraph 1 above, in writing to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations

¹ ECE/EB.AIR/137, paras. 37.

Economic Commission for Europe, who shall further communicate the updated figures, including the corresponding calculations, to all Parties to the Convention for information.

V. Mandate of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution

The Executive Body,

Recognizing the importance of cooperation beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region,

Recalling the Long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex),¹

Recalling also its decision 2019/5 on the establishment of the forum for international cooperation on air pollution,

1. *Decides* to establish a Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution;
2. *Adopts* the mandate of the Task Force as contained in the annex to the present decision, which includes the key objectives and functions of the Task Force to be carried out on an ongoing basis, whereas additional activities and specific tasks that are 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:
 - (a) The lead country or countries is/are responsible for leading and coordinating the ongoing work and tasks of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for communicating with participating experts, for maintaining an up-to-date web page that includes information on the activities, work, meetings and participants of the Task Force, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these tasks subject to availability of resources;
 - (b) The Task Force is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, and for reporting thereon, as well as for keeping other relevant bodies apprised of its work;
 - (c) The Task Force will be comprised of experts from the Parties and other interested countries and international organizations acting in their personal capacity;
 - (d) Meetings will be open to representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations, researchers, industry associations and other relevant organizations;
 - (e) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it is encouraged to notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. In that event, the withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership group, by ensuring that all information required for the operations of the Task Force is provided to the appropriate country or person(s);
4. *Welcomes* the offer of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to lead the Task Force;²
5. *Invites* Parties, centres and task forces, as well as interested States and organizations working in the field of air quality, to engage actively with the Task Force;

¹ All Executive Body decisions referred to in the present decision are available at <https://unece.org/decisions>.

² ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/126 (advance version), para. 38. Available at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-strategies-and-review-fifty-ninth-session>.

6. *Requests* Parties, centres and task forces, and *invites* interested States and organizations outside the ECE region, to nominate focal points to participate in the activities of the Task Force;
7. *Invites* Parties and other participants to make voluntary in-kind or cash contributions to support the work of the Task Force.

Annex

Mandate of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution

1. The Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution will promote international collaboration towards preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally. It will be a forum for the international exchange of information and mutual learning on both the scientific/technical and policy levels. It is intended to be a repository for technical information and a convener of countries and organizations, with the goal of increasing international cooperation on addressing air pollution.
2. The Task Force will report on the progress in its work to the Working Group on Strategies and Review and, as needed, to the Executive Body.
3. The functions of the Task Force are to:
 - (a) Act as an international platform to facilitate mutual learning and collaboration on air pollution;
 - (b) Foster emissions reductions of air pollutants through exchange of information on best practices and policy approaches;
 - (c) Facilitate the sharing of information on funding opportunities and technical capacity-building;
 - (d) Promote an evidence-based approach to air quality management;
 - (e) Work towards raising global public awareness of the health and environmental impacts of air pollution;
 - (f) Organize international forum events to foster information-sharing and stimulate the engagement of non-Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;
 - (g) Deliver a web page and communications package to raise awareness of the Task Force and its work;¹
 - (h) Conduct the work identified above through coordination, cooperation and collaboration with:
 - (i) Other subsidiary bodies under the Convention;
 - (ii) Related international organizations and scientific efforts, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants;
 - (i) Carry out other tasks assigned to it by the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the Executive Body.

¹ Subject to availability of resources.