

Decision 2021/3

Methodology for technical corrections to the emission baseline and emission reduction commitments of the European Union 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 (Geneva, 15 and 16 December 2016) 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 (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 subparagraph (i) above;
 - (iii) Calculating the reduction percentage for the European Union by dividing the sum of the reductions to be achieved as calculated under subparagraph (ii) above by the sum of the 2005 emission baselines of each European Union member State, in kilotons, and multiplying the result by 100.

¹ ECE/EB.AIR/137, para. 37.

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