

Decision 2022/x

The review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision 2019/4 on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, and decision 2020/2 on the 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,

Recalling also the objectives of the Protocol, as specified in its article 2, and the long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020-2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex),

Noting the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixtieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/128),

Welcoming the report on the review of the Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/3), prepared by the Gothenburg Protocol review group, its accompanying documents¹, and the inputs provided by subsidiary bodies to inform the review,

1. *Recognizes* that, despite emission reductions achieved as a result of measures Parties to the Protocol have taken towards the Protocol's objectives, adverse effects on human health, ecosystems and materials continue to occur;
2. *Recognizes also* that increased efforts to further reduce emissions are required in order to achieve the objectives of the Protocol, including the consideration of the implementation of new and updated measures and benefitting from synergies with climate and energy policies, and additional efforts outside the ECE region strengthened;
3. *Acknowledges* the need for more Parties to the Convention to ratify and implement the Protocol to increase its effectiveness;
4. *Notes* that, in addition to control measures to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, volatile organic pollutants and methane in the ECE region, global methane

¹ Scientific information for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/4), Technical information for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/5), Review of the flexibility provisions to facilitate ratification and implementation (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/6), Assessment report on ammonia (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/7), Barriers to ratification and implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, and potential solutions (informal document for the forty-second session of the Executive Body), Synergies and interactions with other policy areas (informal document for the sixtieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review), Potential options for addressing methane as an ozone precursor under the Air Convention (informal document for the sixtieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review), TFTEI background informal technical document for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol for industrial processes (informal document for the sixtieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review), Non-technical and structural measures (informal document for the forty-first session of the Executive Body), Outcomes of the informal meeting of the Heads of Delegations to the Working Group on Strategies and Review (informal document for the forty-second session of the Executive Body).

reductions, in addition to those within the ECE region, are needed to reduce ground-level ozone in the ECE region;

5. *Decides* that the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, is completed and adopts the final report on the review contained in the annex to the present decision;

6. *Recognizes* the need to address the conclusions and next steps outlined in the review report and requests the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue discussions, to develop options for next steps and make recommendations on appropriate policy responses; [at the 43rd session of the Executive Body in December 2023;]

7. *Requests* the subsidiary bodies to make appropriate proposals for the development of the 2024-2025 workplan in response to the conclusions of review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012;

8. *Decides* that an ad hoc group of experts, convened by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group on Strategies and Review:

(a) develops a document proposing possible options to address the conclusions of the review, including whether revisions are needed, and recommendations for next steps and future work;

(b) shares the initial draft as an informal document with the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its sixty-first session, where delegations will have a chance to provide comments;

(c) further elaborates the document and presents its second draft as a official document to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its session planned for September 2023; [at the 43rd session of the Executive Body in December 2023, with the aim to finalize this document in time for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at session in Spring 2024;]

9. *Invites* Parties to the Convention to designate experts, notably those with experience in the work of the Convention, to participate in this group by providing their names and contact information to the secretariat by 23 December 2022;

10. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to present its recommendations to the Executive Body at its forty-third session.