

## **Chair's report on the activities of the EECCA Coordinating Group in 2022**

The EECCA Coordinating Group (CG) (under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation) met twice in 2022:

- 31 March – preparatory meeting (online), attended by representatives of Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, and Uzbekistan. This event was co-arranged and supported by the UNECE Secretariat;
- 13 April – EECCA CG hybrid meeting in the margins of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, 60<sup>th</sup> session. The meeting was attended by representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan. This event was co-arranged and supported by the UNECE Secretariat.

Agenda was focused on the following topics:

### 1. Review of the Gothenburg Protocol:

1.1. Discussion of the Draft report on the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/3)

1.2. Discussion of the Review of the flexibility provisions to facilitate ratification and implementation (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/5)

2. Other updates and next steps: Capacity-building activities, participation in the Saltjöbaden-2023 workshop.

The meetings were well-attended, agenda was adopted with no alterations.

### **1. Review of the Gothenburg Protocol**

Noe Megrelishvili of Georgia presented to the CG a detailed overview of the work by the GP Review group on the Draft report on the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/3)

Chair of the CG presented to the Group the Review of the flexibility provisions to facilitate ratification and implementation (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/5).

The CG expressed its appreciation of the work done by the GP Review group on the Draft report on the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/3) and the Review of the flexibility provisions to facilitate ratification and implementation (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/5).

CG members suggested that a concise list of already existing and proposed (future) flexibilities be prepared as an annex to the Review (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2022/5), or a stand-alone informal document. Following this, all CG countries should review the list and prioritize ‘flexibilities’ according to the existing/identified barriers in individual countries. This would provide more clarity to both the GP non-parties and all parties to the Convention in order to pave the way towards implementing agreed flexible arrangements in the future.

A discussion of the past 10-12-year experience concerning reviews of the national situations with regard to the potential of ratifying the three latest protocols to the Air Convention across the region revealed a need to update, deepen the existing understanding, and further raise awareness on the Gothenburg Protocol as amended.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan reiterated an ongoing need for expert support to countries on technical issues related to the Convention and its protocols, including reporting, BAT formulation, etc., as in-country team staff change, and thus regular capacity-building efforts are required.

## **2. Capacity-building and the CG workplan for 2021-2022**

UNECE Secretariat kindly provided an update on capacity-building activities in 2022. The CG appreciates the Secretariat’s efforts to implement planned activities despite existing limitations and donors’ understanding, and ongoing support\*.

The CG specifically welcomed launch of the eLearning course on Air Convention and its Protocols. Such a course will definitely streamline capacity-building activities in the EECCA region and beyond.

Assistance related to capacity-building in countries of the CG is still required, and donors’ support is very welcome.

## **3. Other issues**

The CG acknowledged with regret that Noe Megrelishvili of Georgia would discontinue his work as a member of the CG and thanked him for his valuable input.

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\* CG sincerely thanks EU, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland for their contributions.