



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

Geneva, 12–16 December 2022

Report of the Executive Body on its forty-second session**I. Introduction**

1. The forty-second session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was held on 12–16 December 2022 in Geneva. Due to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the session was held in a hybrid mode, allowing for both remote and in-person attendance.

2. A representative of Ukraine informed the Executive Body about the ongoing military aggression against Ukraine and its impacts on air pollution. Representatives of the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, Georgia, the European Union and Canada delivered statements in support of Ukraine, emphasizing the need for the Russian Federation to adhere to its international obligations, including those under the Charter of the United Nations. A representative of the Russian Federation delivered a statement in reply.¹

A. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. Delegates from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan also attended the session.

4. Also present at the session were representatives of non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions, including: the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E); the European Chemical Industry Council; Environmental Action Germany; the European Environmental Bureau; the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations; the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative; the Institute of Environmental Protection –

¹ All statements and other documentation for the meeting are available on the session web page:
<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/executive-body-forty-second-session>.



National Research Institute (Poland); and the Technical Reference Centre for Air Pollution and Climate Change (France).

B. Organizational matters

5. The session was chaired by Ms. Anna Engleryd (Sweden).
6. The Executive Body adopted the agenda for its forty-second session, as set out in document ECE/EB.AIR/151/Rev.1.

II. Report on credentials

7. Delegations were invited to submit their credentials in advance and during the session. The officers of the session reported that 37 Parties to the Convention, which constituted a quorum, had submitted credentials. The Executive Body took note of the report on credentials.

III. Thematic session on barriers to ratification and implementation of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012

8. In a special informal segment of the session, participants discussed barriers to ratification and implementation of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012, and potential solutions to overcome them. The Executive Body took note of the discussions. A summary of the thematic session prepared by its Co-Chairs is appended to the present report (see annex III below).

IV. Review of implementation of the 2022–2023 workplan

9. The subsidiary bodies and the secretariat reported on the implementation of the 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/148/Add.1).

A. Science

10. The Chairs of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects reported on the implementation of workplan item 1 (science) and, in particular, on the outcomes of the eighth joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 12–16 September 2022), including the conclusions and recommendations for the Executive Body's consideration.

11. The Chair of the Working Group on Effects gave an overview of the main outputs of the work of the international cooperative programmes and the Task Force on Health and provided information on the Working Group's contribution to the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012. The Chair of the Steering Body for EMEP informed Parties about the status of emission inventory reporting and in-depth review, the results of the review of adjustment applications under the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, the progress in scientific work regarding accounting for the condensable part in emissions of particulate matter, and the outcomes of the EMEP Steering Body/Working Group on Effects joint discussion on open access to data gathered and elaborated by science bodies under the Convention.

12. The representatives of Norway and the European Union noted the importance of the scientific bodies' work and thanked the Chairs of the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body for the report provided.

13. The Executive Body:

- (a) Took note of the report of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects on their eighth joint session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2022/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2022/2);
- (b) Adopted decision 2022/1 on the updated Guidelines for Reporting Emissions and Projections Data under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (see ECE/EB.AIR/150/Add.1);
- (c) Also adopted decision 2022/2 on reporting of emissions and projections data under the Convention and its protocols in force (see annex I below);
- (d) Welcomed and took note of the revised Technical Guidance for Emissions Inventory Adjustments under the Amended Gothenburg Protocol, approved by the EMEP Steering Body;²
- (e) Adopted decision 2022/3 on the strategy for scientific bodies under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (see annex I below);
- (f) Took note that no candidates had been nominated as Chair of either the EMEP Steering Body Chair or the Working Group on Effects during their eighth joint session (therefore, the current Chairs agreed to remain in their positions for one year to allow time to find suitable candidates in 2023), and encouraged Parties to submit nominations.

B. Policy

14. The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review reported on the implementation of workplan item 2 (policy) and the outcomes of the Working Group's sixtieth session (Geneva, 11–14 April 2022) and the informal session of the Heads of Delegations to the Working Group on Strategies and Review (The Hague, Netherlands, 27–30 September 2022). He noted the strong emphasis in the Working Group's work in 2022 on finalizing the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012. He conveyed the Working Group's recommendation to invite Parties to cover the cost of a second Working Group session in 2023 and stressed the need for a Working Group session to be held in September 2023 to allow for sufficient time for preparing options for the policy follow-up to the review of the Protocol.

15. A representative of the secretariat gave an overview of the status of acceptance of amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs). She informed Parties of the entry into force, on 26 February 2023, of the amendments to annexes I and II to the Protocol on POPs, adopted by decision 2009/2 (ECE/EB.AIR/99/ADD.1).

16. The representative of Georgia informed Parties about progress made regarding ratification of the protocols, including revision of national legislation, improvement in emissions monitoring and reporting, as well as promotion of best available techniques, thanking Estonia, the European Union and Sweden for their support in that regard. A representative of Hungary informed the Executive Body of the planned acceptance of the amendments to the three most recent protocols in early 2023. The representative of the European Union confirmed the intention of the European Union member States to finalize outstanding ratifications as soon as possible.

17. The Executive Body:

- (a) Took note of the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixtieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/128);
- (b) Also took note of the information presented by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;
- (c) Welcomed the report on the cost of inaction (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/7);

² See informal document for the session under agenda item 4 (a).

(d) Requested the secretariat to issue the Guidance document on methane mitigation technologies and the Guidance document on reducing emissions from maritime shipping following their expected adoption by the Executive Body at its forty-third session (Geneva, 11–14 December 2023);

(e) Took note of and welcomed the entry into force of the amendments to annexes I and II to the Protocol on POPs and requested Parties to provide written reports on the status of acceptance of amendments to the most recent protocols to the Convention to the secretariat after the session.

C. Compliance

18. The Chair of the Implementation Committee reported on the implementation of workplan item 3 (compliance), presenting the outcomes of the Committee's forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions (Geneva (online), 3–4 May 2022, and 30–31 August 2022, respectively). He provided an overview of cases of reviewed compliance by Parties with their emission reduction and reporting obligations. He noted that: one case of reviewed compliance with emission reduction obligations considered by the Committee in 2022 had been closed; six other cases would continue to be reviewed; and eleven cases of potential non-compliance had not been referred to the Committee by the secretariat in 2022 due to a lack of resources.

19. The representatives of the European Union and Norway stressed the importance of the Committee's work and expressed regret that a number of cases of potential non-compliance had not been referred to the Committee in 2022.

20. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the twenty-fifth report of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/2);

(b) Elected Denmark (Mr. Christian Lange), France (Mr. Jean-Pierre Chang), North Macedonia (Ms. Aleksandra Nestorovska-Krsteska) and the United States of America (Mr. Jeremy Weinberg) for a first term on the Implementation Committee;

(c) Re-elected Canada (Ms. Catherine Bloodworth) and Estonia (Mr. Marek Maasikmets) for a second term, Croatia (Mr. Josip Kovilić) and Sweden (Ms. Petra Hagström) for a fourth term, and Norway (Ms. Alice Gaustad) for a sixth term on the Implementation Committee;

(d) Elected Mr. Maasikmets (Estonia) as Chair of the Implementation Committee;

(e) Expressed its appreciation to the outgoing members and Chair of the Implementation Committee;

(f) Noted the planned review of the Implementation Committee's mandate by the Executive Body Bureau (workplan item 3.5);

(g) Requested the secretariat to prioritize its support to the Implementation Committee's work and notably to refer, in accordance with decision 2012/25 on improving the functioning of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1), the 11 cases of potential non-compliance that had not been referred to the Implementation Committee in 2022.

D. Capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation

21. The Chair of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Coordinating Group), Mr. Alexander Romanov (Russian Federation), informed Parties of: the Coordinating Group's activities in 2022, particularly the outcomes of its online meetings on 31 March and 13 April 2022; and the decision of Georgia to leave the Group in 2022. The secretariat informed the Executive Body of the capacity-building and awareness-raising activities it had organized/co-organized in 2022, including the launch of an e-learning course

on the Convention and its protocols, a subregional training workshop on an advanced method for estimation of road transport emissions (Istanbul, Türkiye, 14–15 June 2022), a consultation with Uzbekistan on accession to the Convention (online, 23 September 2022), the National Clean Air Dialogue in Georgia (Tbilisi, 19 October 2022), a webinar on accession to and implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol (online, 15 November 2022), and the Coordinating Group meetings.

22. Representatives of Georgia and Armenia thanked the Parties providing contributions for continuous support and the secretariat for organizing activities aimed at facilitating implementation and ratification of the Convention's protocols. The representative of the European Union reiterated its strong support to capacity-building efforts.

23. The representative of Ukraine noted that the Coordinating Group's mandate, as adopted by decision 2010/17 (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1), was no longer relevant and encouraged the Executive Body to review the mandate, also analysing the need for the continued existence of the Coordinating Group. The representatives of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova informed Parties that their countries were leaving the Coordinating Group, reiterating their commitment to the implementation of the Convention and its protocols. The representatives of the European Union, Switzerland, the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland supported the proposal to review the Coordinating Group's mandate. The representatives of Switzerland and Canada suggested considering potential expansion of the Group's scope to include more countries willing to accede to the Convention's protocols and facing similar challenges on the way to ratification and implementation.

24. The Executive Body:

- (a) Took note of the report of the Chair of the Coordinating Group;
- (b) Also took note of the decision by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to leave the Coordinating Group;
- (c) Further took note of the secretariat's report on the implementation of capacity-building and awareness-raising activities;
- (d) Expressed its appreciation to Parties that had provided contributions to support capacity-building and awareness-raising;
- (e) Requested such Parties to continue doing so and invited other Parties to also support financially the capacity-building and awareness-raising activities managed by the secretariat;
- (f) Requested the Bureau to review the Coordinating Group's mandate, including its scope and composition, and to report to the Executive Body at its forty-third session.

E. Communication, outreach and cooperation

25. The secretariat presented information on the implementation of communication and outreach activities in 2022, including activities to increase the Convention's visibility, the secretariat's contribution to outreach activities and the statistics on the use of the e-learning course on the Convention.

26. The Executive Body took note of the secretariat's report (informal document No. 6).

V. Review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012

27. The Chair of the Gothenburg Protocol review group presented the list of documents, accompanying the report on the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/3), the main conclusions of the review and the proposed follow-up steps. The Vice-Chair of the Working Group on

Strategies and Review (Belgium), a member of the Gothenburg Protocol review group, presented the report on the review, as revised in accordance with comments received from Parties in advance of the session. The review group member from the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen drew the Parties' attention to the newly added informal document containing responses to the ammonia questionnaire and preliminary main messages.

28. Representatives of Canada, the European Union, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America thanked the Gothenburg Protocol review group for its work and expressed their approval of the revised report on the review. The representative of Norway noted the importance of the continued multi-pollutant, multi-effect approach and the Party's openness with respect to the addition of new pollutants and any potential revision of the Protocol or development of a new instrument, as long as it contributed to increased ratification.

29. The Executive Body:

(a) Welcomed the final report on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to the ad hoc group on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, and its Chair for preparing the report and its accompanying documents, and to subsidiary bodies for providing their inputs to the review;

(c) Adopted decision 2022/4 on the conclusion of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, and the path forward (see annex I below);

(d) Requested the secretariat to support the ad hoc group's work.

VI. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

30. The secretariat presented the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/1). The representative of the European Union welcomed the significant contributions in cash and in kind provided by Parties and stressed the need for the timely sending out of the annual payment requests to enable the full and timely payment of contributions under the Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP Protocol) and decision 2002/1 (ECE/EB.AIR/77/Add.1, annex I).

31. The representative of Ukraine proposed suspending the allocation of funds to MSC-E in 2023 and requesting the EMEP Steering Body to consider alternative options, including reallocation of funds to other EMEP centres or for other priority tasks, as well as potential relocation of the centre, currently based in the Russian Federation. The representatives of Canada, the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed support for that proposal. The representative of the European Union agreed that there was a need to reconsider the hosting and functioning of MSC-E in the current circumstances, emphasizing the importance of a geographical balance between the scientific centres under the Convention.

32. The representative of the Russian Federation warned Parties of the potential closure of MSC-E following the proposed budget reallocation, which would affect work under the Convention. He noted that: such a situation would also imply the revision of the EMEP Protocol, and hence, could not be decided upon at the current Executive Body session;³ and that, in the event of reallocation of funds, the 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention would have to be revised accordingly. The representative of Switzerland noted the valuable input of MSC-E into the work of the Convention and suggested that, in order to maintain the centre, the host country could temporarily advance resources.

³ The text of the statement by the representative of the Russian Federation is partly included in an informal document available under agenda item 6.

33. A representative of MSC-E stressed that there was an urgent need to reimburse the costs of the centre's activities in 2022. He informed Parties of the intention of MSC-E to transfer its staff to the centre's possible new host institution, which was ready to implement the activities of MSC-E in order to overcome the existing problems with processing bank transfers to MSC-E. He urged the secretariat to prepare a proposal to resolve the problem with processing the 2022 payment. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body informed that the Steering Body at its eighth joint session had acknowledged that the scientific contribution by MSC-E in 2022 was consistent with the 2022–2023 workplan and that the secretariat was exploring options for processing the payment. The representatives of Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America noted that prior notice and further clarity were needed regarding the change in the host institution of MSC-E. The secretariat noted that changing the host institution retrospectively might not be in line with existing United Nations rules and procedures.

34. The Executive Body sought legal advice from the secretariat on whether:

(a) A decision on the change of host institution could be taken at the current session and what the prerequisites for such a decision were;

(b) Discontinuing the financing of an EMEP centre was deemed a revision to the Protocol and required a year's notice;

(c) Parties could decide to freeze funding for certain activities while exploring options of how those activities would be carried out in the future.

35. The secretariat conveyed the response of the Office of Legal Affairs noting that the interpretation of treaties was a matter for States parties. It recalled rule 27 of the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, as adopted by decision 2010/19 and amended by decision 2013/1, which allowed for a decision to be adopted on whether the body concerned was competent to adopt the proposal.⁴

36. Following the proposal by the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on paragraph 37 (b)–(d) and the proposal by Ukraine on the addition to paragraph 37 (b) below,⁵ and in view of the lack of consensus among Parties on the proposed text, the Executive Body voted.⁶ The Executive Body also voted on paragraph 37 in its entirety following the proposal by the Russian Federation. That included a vote to amend the annex to the EMEP Protocol, in accordance with article 4 (3) of the Protocol, as set out in table 3 of document ECE/EB.AIR/2022/1. That decision was renounced by consensus of the Executive Body at a later stage in the session (result reflected in para. 37 (e) below).

37. With respect to the EMEP Protocol, the Executive Body, following a vote with 30 Parties voting positively, one Party voting negatively and two Parties abstaining:⁷

(a) Decided on the detailed use of resources in 2023, as set out in table 2 of document ECE/EB.AIR/2022/1;

(b) Noted the uncertainty regarding the feasibility of financing and implementation of the activities in the work programme to be carried out in 2023 by MSC-E in the circumstances referred to in General Assembly resolution ES-11/1 on aggression against Ukraine;⁸

(c) Requested the EMEP Steering Body to assess options for reorganization and relocation of the activities currently implemented by the centre, with due consideration for

⁴ Available at https://unece.org/DAM/env/documents/2016/AIR/Decision2010_9and2013_1.pdf.

⁵ The proposed text is available as an informal document for the session.

⁶ The voting was held in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution as adopted by decision 2010/19 and amended by decision 2013/1.

⁷ A record of votes is included in annex II below.

⁸ A/RES/ES-11/1.

the need to retain geographical balance, and to report back on that assessment to the Executive Body at its forty-third session;

(d) Until that information was available, requested the secretariat to pause disbursement of the funds approved in the budget for such activities pending reassessment of the situation by the Executive Body upon recommendation by the EMEP Steering Body regarding the plan for carrying out those scientific activities;

(e) Agreed on the schedule of mandatory contributions from Parties for 2023 as set out in table 3 of document ECE/EB.AIR/2021/1;

(f) Supported the Steering Body's call on the Parties to the EMEP Protocol to consider making additional voluntary contributions (in kind or in cash through the trust fund) to ensure that the work in 2023 could be accomplished as foreseen in the 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Requested the Steering Body, with the assistance of its Bureau, to present the details of the 2024 budget for approval by the Executive Body at its forty-third session;

(h) Urged Parties that had not yet done so to pay their 2022 contributions in cash to the trust fund and, in 2023, to pay their contributions so that they reached the trust fund in the first half of the year;

(i) Urged Parties in arrears to pay them in full to the trust fund.

38. The representative of MSC-E noted that the centre would evaluate the implications of the decision taken on its operational and research activities in 2023 and inform the secretariat in due course.

39. With respect to the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol, the Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the contributions made to the trust fund for effects-oriented activities for 2021 and 2022 by a number of Parties, welcomed the payments made, and encouraged the remaining Parties to ensure that contributions were made in due time, taking into account that the continuation of the international cooperative programmes was dependent upon long-term funding;

(b) Urged all Parties that had not yet done so to provide the recommended contributions to the trust fund for financing core activities without undue delay;

(c) Decided that the essential international coordination costs for financing the core activities of the Convention and its protocols, other than those covered by the EMEP Protocol, would be \$2,358,700 in 2023, and would provisionally be \$2,358,700 in 2024 and \$2,358,700 in 2025;

(d) Adopted decision 2022/5 amending decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities (see annex I below);

(e) Agreed on the recommended schedule of contributions from Parties for 2023, as set out in table 11 of document ECE/EB.AIR/2022/1;

(f) Requested the secretariat to inform Parties of the recommended contributions made to the trust fund to meet the 2023 budget, inviting them to make those contributions as agreed in revised decision 2002/1;

(g) Encouraged Parties to make the recommended contributions to the trust fund before 30 November of each year;

(h) Noted with appreciation the essential support provided to the Convention and its bodies by lead countries, countries hosting centres and those organizing meetings, as well as countries that funded activities of their national focal centres/points and the active participation of national experts;

(i) Invited the secretariat to provide information on the amount of contributions made to the trust fund for effects-oriented activities as of 30 November 2023 at the forty-third session of the Executive Body, and to use the amount as a basis to co-fund the effects-oriented activities in 2024;

(j) Decided that, in the event that the amount of contributions was lower than the agreed costs of \$2,358,700, unearmarked contributions should be divided equally between the centres.

40. Regarding the promotion and implementation of the Convention, the Executive Body:

(a) Reiterated its support for that element of the work programme, the successful enlarged implementation of the Convention in countries in transition of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia being crucial for the Convention's future;

(b) Invited all Parties, particularly those leading task forces and expert groups, to promote activities such as special workshops in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and to collaborate with the secretariat in developing and carrying out such projects;

(c) Welcomed the contributions to the trust fund and thanked those countries that had contributed;

(d) Took note of the outstanding amount of funding required for 2023 to implement the activities (see ECE/EB.AIR/2022/1, table 16);

(e) Urged Parties to provide voluntary contributions without delay to ensure the successful implementation of activities for 2023 as planned.

41. The secretariat noted that: document ECE/EB.AIR/2022/9, entitled "Resources for the secretariat to support the core functioning of the Convention", should be read in conjunction with an Executive Body Bureau cover note⁹ that proposed temporary measures to restrict the secretariat's activities; and that the note did not take into account the request for an additional Working Group on Strategies and Review session in 2023, for which additional resources were needed.

42. The Executive Body:

(a) Decided that, if only one session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review was to be organized in 2023, it should be held on 4–6 September 2023;

(b) Requested the secretariat to inform Parties as soon as possible, and by no later than 19 December 2022, of its costs estimates for holding an additional Working Group on Strategies and Review session in April 2023, including the costs for both a full and a 2-day session with limited official documents, and encouraged Parties to pledge contributions to cover those costs by 31 December 2022;

(c) Encouraged Parties to look into the possibilities of hosting an informal meeting in spring 2023, should sufficient funding for an additional Working Group on Strategies and Review session not be pledged by 31 December 2022;

(d) Urged the secretariat to arrange for more meeting time for the forty-third session of the Executive Body, and strongly urged the secretariat to attempt to get better time slots for the 2024 Working Group on Strategies and Review session(s), including one session preferably in May or June;

(e) Called on the secretariat to ensure that the payment requests for 2023 were sent out as early as possible;

(f) Decided to temporarily restrict some core secretariat activities in 2023, as proposed by the Executive Body Bureau, as set out in the Bureau cover note to document ECE/EB.AIR/2022/9;

(g) Agreed on the revised list of documents for the sessions of the Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies in 2023 (see annex IV below).

⁹ Cover note by Executive Body Bureau produced as informal document under agenda item 6.

VII. Review of the rules of procedure for the Executive Body

43. The Chair of the ad hoc group of experts on the review of the rules of procedure for the sessions of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, as established by decision 2021/6 (ECE/EB.AIR/148) and convened by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, informed Parties about the progress in the review. He explained that four Parties to the Convention had provided additional input in the first steps in the review, inter alia, on holding virtual meetings, flexibility regarding terms of officers, ambiguities in the voting rules, the possibility of intersessional decision-making and transparency regarding the work of the Executive Body Bureau. He noted that the ad hoc group continued to examine those and other ideas, including their added value, feasibility and timeliness.

44. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland thanked the Chair of the ad hoc group for the detailed report and welcomed the proposal to render more transparent the intersessional work by making Executive Body Bureau agendas and reports available on the Convention's website.

45. The Executive Body took note of the presentation and the next steps for the ad hoc group to present further information for review by the legal ad hoc group and further to report on its recommendations to the Executive Body at its forty-third session. The Executive Body encouraged its Bureau to take into consideration in 2023 the potential to make the timing, agenda and minutes of its meetings available on the Convention's website.

VIII. Impartiality declaration for elected officers

46. The representative of the European Union noted that the introduction of an impartiality declaration was seen as a formalization of the already-established principle of officers being open about their potential conflicts of interest and refraining from taking decisions on issues where those interests were concerned. He expressed appreciation to Parties nominating their candidates for positions of officers.

47. The Executive Body adopted decision 2022/6 on the impartiality declaration for elected officers (see annex I below).

IX. Election of Officers

48. The Executive Body elected Ms. Kimber Scavo (United States of America) as its Chair for a first term.

49. The Executive Body expressed its deep appreciation for the excellent leadership of Ms. Engleryd, the outgoing Chair to the Convention.

X. Other business

50. A representative of Sweden invited Parties to attend the seventh Saltsjöbaden science and policy workshop (Gothenburg, Sweden, 13–15 March 2023) and the Early Career Negotiation Exercise (Gothenburg, Sweden, 12–13 March 2023) organized by the Government of Sweden with support from the Nordic Council of Ministers. The representatives of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland informed Parties of the first meeting of the Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (Gothenburg, Sweden, 16 March 2023), to be held back-to-back with the workshop.

51. The Co-Chair of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (Italy) informed the Executive Body of his retirement in 2023, noting that Italy would continue to co-lead the Task Force's work.

52. The Chair of the Coordinating Group informed Parties of his resignation.

53. A representative of the European Environmental Bureau referred to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and called on Parties to ensure that civil society views were reflected in the work of the Working Group on Strategies and Review with respect to potential revision of the Gothenburg Protocol.

XI. Adoption of the draft report on the forty-second session

54. The Executive Body reviewed and adopted the draft report containing the decisions taken during the session. It entrusted the secretariat with finalizing the report on its forty-second session.

Annex I

Decision 2022/2

Reporting of emissions and projections data under the Convention and its protocols in force

The Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the 1988 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes, the 1991 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes, the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulfur Emissions, the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals, including in amended version, the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants, including in amended version, and the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), including in amended version, respectively, meeting within the Executive Body,

Referring to the Guidelines for Reporting Emissions and Projections Data under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Guidelines) adopted by the Executive Body at its forty-second session (decision 2022/1),¹

Recalling Executive Body decision 2013/4 on reporting of emissions and projections data under the Convention and its protocols in force,²

Noting the importance of reliable emission data both for the purpose of reviewing Parties' compliance with their obligations under the protocols and as a basis for scientific work to further develop abatement strategies under the Convention,

Recognizing that the Guidelines apply only to Parties within the geographical scope of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), as defined in its 1984 Protocol on Long-term Financing, including those Parties whose respective national territories have a part that overlaps within the EMEP emissions reporting grid and another part lying outside the EMEP domain, and that Parties outside the geographical scope of EMEP are encouraged to take the Guidelines into account when preparing and reporting their annual submissions and to exchange similar available information,

- 1. Decide that the present decision replaces decision 2013/4 with effect from 1 January 2024 and that the specific requirements on reporting of emissions and projections data under the Convention and its protocols in force shall, from that date, be those set out in the decisions contained in annexes I–IV to this decision;*
- 2. Also decide that the Guidelines referred to in the annexes to this decision shall be the Guidelines adopted through decision 2022/1, noting that no revision to the Guidelines will affect this specification unless and until it has been expressly so decided by the Parties meeting within the Executive Body;*
- 3. Determine that each reference to decision 2013/4 contained in other decisions by the Executive Body or by the Parties to the aforementioned protocols, respectively, is meant to refer to decision 2022/2 as of 1 January 2024, unless the reference to decision 2013/4 clearly concerns a point in time before this date.*

Annex I

The Parties to the Convention,

Acting under article 8 (a) of the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

¹ ECE/EB.AIR/2022/8, sect. I.

² ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1.

Decide that:

(a) The periods of time referred to in article 8 (a) of the Convention for which available information on emissions shall be exchanged shall:

(i) Be annual for national totals, to be submitted by 15 February³ for the calendar year that is two years prior to the reporting year;

(ii) Be every fourth year, starting from 2017, for gridded and large point sources data, to be submitted by 1 May⁴ for the calendar year that is two years prior to the reporting year;

(iii) To the extent feasible, cover an appropriate emission time series with respect to annual national totals, including recalculated data for the previous years;

(b) The air pollutants referred to in article 8 (a) of the Convention shall be emissions of: sulfur oxides (SO_x), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ammonia (NH₃), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (referring in particular to PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ and, if a Party considers it appropriate, total suspended particulate matter (TSP) and black carbon (BC)), heavy metals (in particular, cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb), mercury (Hg) and, if a Party considers it appropriate, arsenic (As), chromium (Cr), copper (Cu), nickel (Ni), selenium (Se) and zinc (Zn)) and persistent organic pollutants (in particular, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins and furans (PCDD/F) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)), using as guidance the definitions given in the Guidelines;

(c) For reporting by Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP, the grid units referred to in article 8 (a) of the Convention shall be 0.1° x 0.1° latitude-longitude grids specified in annex V to the Guidelines;

(d) Data referred to in paragraph 1 of decision 2022/2 shall be submitted, through the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), to the EMEP Centre on Emissions Inventories and Projections or, as an equivalent alternative, directly to the EMEP Centre on Emissions Inventories and Projections with notification to the Executive Secretary of ECE.

Annex II

The Parties to the 1988 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes,

Acting under article 8 (1) (a) and (2) of the Protocol,

Decide that:

(a) The uniform reporting framework referred to in article 8 (2) of the Protocol on Nitrogen Oxides, in accordance with which information shall, as far as possible, be submitted, shall be the reporting templates given in annex I to the Guidelines;

(b) Data exchanged in accordance with article 8 (1) (a) of the Protocol shall be submitted through the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe Centre on Emissions Inventories and Projections, or, as an equivalent alternative, directly to the Centre on Emissions Inventories and Projections, with notification to the Executive Secretary of ECE.

Annex III

The Parties to the 1991 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes,

Acting under article 8 of the Protocol,

³ 30 April for the European Union.

⁴ 15 June for the European Union.

Decide that:

(a) The guidelines referred to in article 8 (1) of the Protocol, according to which each Party shall report on the level of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in its territory and any Tropospheric Ozone Management Areas in its territory, by total and, to the extent feasible, by sector of origin and by individual VOC, including recalculated data for earlier reported years, are those set out in the relevant annexes to the Guidelines;

(b) The intervals referred to in article 8 (3) of the Protocol, for which Parties within the geographical scope of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) shall report information on VOC emissions by sector of origin, shall be:

(i) Annual for national emissions, to be submitted by 15 February⁵ for all calendar years from 1990, or from the relevant reference year when other than 1990, to the year that is two years prior to the reporting year;

(ii) Annual for recalculated national emission data for previous years, to be included in the reported time series as required under (i) above;

(iii) Every fourth year, starting from 2017, for gridded and large point sources data, to be submitted by 1 May⁶ for the calendar year that is two years prior to the reporting year;

(c) The spatial resolution, referred to in article 8 (3) of the Protocol, with which Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP shall report gridded data on VOC emissions, shall be the 0.1° x 0.1° latitude-longitude grid specified in annex V to the Guidelines;

(d) The uniform reporting framework, referred to in article 8 (4) of the Protocol, in accordance with which information shall, as far as possible, be submitted, shall be the reporting templates given in the relevant annexes to the Guidelines;

(e) Data referred to under paragraph 8 shall be submitted through the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), to the EMEP Centre on Emissions Inventories and Projections, or, as an equivalent alternative, directly to the Centre on Emissions Inventories and Projections with notification to the Executive Secretary of ECE.

Annex IV

The Parties to the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulfur Emissions (1994 Sulfur Protocol), the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals, including in amended version, the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs), including in amended version, and the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), including in amended version, respectively,

Acting under article 5 (1) (b) and 2 of the 1994 Sulfur Protocol, article 7 (1) (b) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 7 (1) (b) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, as amended, article 9 (1) (b) of the Protocol on POPs, article 9 (1) (b) of the Protocol on POPs, as amended, article 7 (1) (b) of the Gothenburg Protocol and article 7 (1) (b) of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended, respectively,

Decide that:

(a) The periodic basis, referred to in article 5 (1) (b) and (2) of the 1994 Sulfur Protocol, article 7 (1) (b) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 7 (1) (b) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, as amended, article 9 (1) (b) of the Protocol on POPs, article 9 (1) (b) of the Protocol on POPs, as amended, article 7 (1) (b) of the Gothenburg Protocol and article 7 (1) (b) of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended, for the reporting of information on the levels of emissions by Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP, shall be:

⁵ 30 April for the European Union.

⁶ 15 June for the European Union.

- (i) Annual for national emissions, to be submitted by 15 February⁷ for all calendar years from 1990, or from the relevant reference year when other than 1990, to the year that is two years prior to the reporting year;
- (ii) Annual for recalculated national emission data for previous years, to be included in the reported time series as required under (i) above;
- (iii) Every fourth year, starting from 2017, for gridded and large point sources data, to be submitted by 1 May⁸ for the calendar year that is two years prior to the reporting year;
- (b) The periodic basis, determined in accordance with article 7 (1) (b) of the Gothenburg Protocol, as well as article 7 (1) (b) of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended, for the reporting of information on projected emissions by Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP, shall be every fourth year, starting from 2015, for emission projections for the years 2025 and 2030 and, where available, also for 2040 and 2050, to be submitted by 15 March;⁹
- (c) The methodologies and temporal and spatial resolution specified in accordance with article 7 (1) (b) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 7 (1) (b) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, as amended, article 9 (1) (b) of the Protocol on POPs, article 9 (1) (b) of the Protocol on POPs, as amended, article 7 (1) (b) of the Gothenburg Protocol and article 7 (1) (b) of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended, for the reporting of information on the levels of emissions by Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP, shall be those specified in the Guidelines, and in particular that:
- (i) The methodologies used for estimating emissions and projections shall be those described in the EMEP/European Environment Agency air pollutant emission inventory guidebook, or, alternatively, national/international methodologies producing more accurate country-specific estimates;
- (ii) The reporting templates used shall be those given in annexes I–VII to the Guidelines;
- (iii) The spatial resolution used for reporting gridded data shall be the 0.1° x 0.1° latitude-longitude projection specified in annex V to the Guidelines;
- (d) The guidelines, the format and content referred to in article 5 (1) of the 1994 Sulfur Protocol, according to which each Party shall report information on the levels of national annual sulfur emissions, containing emission data for all relevant source categories, are those set out in the Guidelines, including the guidelines on the methodologies, the reporting templates and the spatial resolution as articulated in subparagraph (c) above;
- (e) Data referred to under subparagraphs (a) and (b) above shall be submitted, through the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe Centre on Emissions Inventories and Projections, or, as an equivalent alternative, directly to the Centre on Emissions Inventories and Projections with notification to the Executive Secretary of ECE.

⁷ 30 April for the European Union.

⁸ 15 June for the European Union.

⁹ 30 April for the European Union.

Decision 2022/3

Adoption of the strategy for scientific bodies under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

The Executive Body,

Recalling the revised strategy for the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe for 2010–2019 (ECE/EB.AIR/2009/16/Rev.1),¹

Recalling also the revised long-term strategy of the effects-oriented activities (ECE/EB.AIR/2009/17/Rev.1),²

Recognizing the achievements of the science work under the Convention over the past 10 years,

Recognizing also the need to update the above-mentioned strategies of the scientific bodies in order to set out a vision for scientific work and priorities for the period 2022–2030 and beyond, so as to support implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5)³ and provide the technical and scientific background to support the implementation of the protocols to the Convention,

Adopts the strategy for scientific bodies under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution approved by the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects at their eighth joint session (Geneva, 12–16 September 2022) and contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2022/10.

¹ Available at

https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2013/air/emep/Informal_document_no_20_Revised_Strategy_for_EMEP_for_2010-2019_clean_text.pdf.

² Available at https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2012/EB/Informal_document_no_18_Revised_Long-term_Strategy_of_the_effects-oriented_activities_clean_text.pdf.

³ All Executive Body decisions referred to in the present decision are available at <https://unece.org/decisions>.

Decision 2022/4

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

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision 2019/4 to initiate the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.1), 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 (ECE/EB.AIR/146),

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),¹

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

Welcoming the draft report prepared by the Gothenburg Protocol review group on the review of the Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/3), its accompanying documents² and the inputs provided by subsidiary bodies to inform the review,

1. *Recognizes* that, despite emission reductions achieved by Parties as a result of introducing measures to address Protocol objectives, adverse effects on human health, ecosystems and materials continue to occur;
2. *Also recognizes* that increased efforts to further reduce emissions are necessary in order to achieve the objectives of the Protocol, including considering the development and implementation of new and updated measures;
3. *Further recognizes* that there are benefits to be achieved from synergies with climate and energy policies and that additional efforts outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region could further strengthen outcomes;
4. *Acknowledges* the need for more Parties to the Convention to ratify and implement the Protocol to increase its effectiveness;

¹ Available at <https://unece.org/decisions>.

² 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); Cost of inaction (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/7); 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 Executive Body's forty-second session); Synergies and interactions with other policy areas, Potential options for addressing methane as an ozone precursor under the Air Convention and [Task Force on Techno-economic Issues] background informal technical document for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol for industrial processes (informal documents for sixtieth session of Working Group on Strategies and Review); Non-technical and structural measures (informal document for Executive Body's forty-first session); Outcomes of the informal meeting of the Heads of Delegations to the Working Group on Strategies and Review (informal document for Executive Body's forty-second session); 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 (informal documents for fifty-eighth session of Working Group on Strategies and Review); Report of the Executive Body on its forty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/148).

5. *Notes* that, in addition to reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides, volatile organic pollutants and methane within the ECE region, global methane reductions are needed to further reduce ground-level ozone in the ECE region;
6. *Decides* that the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, has been completed and adopts the final report on the review contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/150/Add.2;
7. *Requests* the subsidiary bodies to make appropriate proposals for the development of the 2024–2025 workplan in response to the conclusions and the next steps itemized in the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012;
8. *Recognizes* the need to further address the conclusions and next steps outlined in the review report and requests the Working Group on Strategies and Review to develop options for next steps and make recommendations on appropriate policy responses;
9. *Decides* that an ad hoc group of experts should be convened by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The tasks of the ad hoc group are to include:
 - (a) Development of policy options to address the conclusions of the review, including consideration of the option of a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, and options for addressing conclusions related to the technical annexes, and including recommendations for next steps and future work;
 - (b) Sharing the above-mentioned policy options with the Working Group on Strategies and Review for input in preparation for and at sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review in 2023, and, in the event of only one such session being held, making available a first draft of the ad hoc group's report through the secretariat to the national focal points for their input at the latest by the end of spring 2023;
 - (c) Further elaborating the policy options duly taking into consideration the input received;
10. *Invites* Parties to the Convention to nominate experts with experience in the work of the Convention to participate in the ad hoc group of experts by providing their names and contact information to the secretariat by 13 January 2023;
11. *Requests* the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, together with the ad hoc group, to report to the Executive Body at its forty-third session, to enable the Executive Body to give due consideration to the proposed options and in order to take appropriate action, which could, if appropriate, include a decision to launch a formal negotiation process.

Decision 2022/5

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, as amended by decisions 2018/8, 2019/22 and 2021/4,

Recalling also its request to the secretariat to present a revised scale of recommended contributions, based on the most recent United Nations scale of assessments,²

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

For the existing text *substitute*

Scale of recommended contributions

(The following is the scale of contributions referred to in para. 5)

<i>Parties to Convention^a</i>	<i>Recommended scale (percentage)</i>
<i>Non-European Union countries</i>	
Albania	0.023
Armenia	0.020
Azerbaijan	0.087
Belarus	0.119
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.035
Georgia	0.023
Iceland	0.105
Kazakhstan	0.386
Kyrgyzstan	0.006
Liechtenstein	0.029
Monaco	0.032
Montenegro	0.012
North Macedonia	0.020
Norway	1.972
Rep. of Moldova	0.015
Russian Federation	5.419
Serbia	0.093
Switzerland	3.293
Türkiye	2.454

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

² ECE/EB.AIR/148, para. 32 (k).

<i>Parties to Convention ^a</i>	<i>Recommended scale (percentage)</i>
Ukraine	0.163
United Kingdom	12.706
<i>European Union countries+European Union</i>	
Austria	1.972
Belgium	2.405
Bulgaria	0.163
Croatia	0.264
Cyprus	0.105
Czechia	0.987
Denmark	1.606
Estonia	0.128
Finland	1.211
France	12.540
Germany	17.747
Greece	0.944
Hungary	0.662
Ireland	1.275
Italy	9.261
Latvia	0.145
Lithuania	0.224
Luxembourg	0.197
Malta	0.055
Netherlands	3.999
Poland	2.431
Portugal	1.025
Romania	0.906
Slovakia	0.450
Slovenia	0.229
Spain	6.197
Sweden	2.530
European Union	3.33
Total	100.000

^a Canada and the United States of America: voluntary contributions.

Decision 2022/6

Impartiality declaration for elected officers

The Executive Body,

Recalling the rules of procedure for sessions of the Executive Body, as adopted by decision 2010/19¹ and amended by decision 2013/1, in particular sections VII–VIII of the annex to decision 2010/19,

Recalling also the rules of the Implementation Committee, as adopted by decision 2012/25 on improving the functioning of the Implementation Committee, in particular sections I, IV and XI of the annex thereto,

Cognisant of the need for the officers of the Executive Body, the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the members of the Implementation Committee, all elected by and accountable to the Executive Body, to exercise their duties in an impartial manner and to be fully transparent about any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest,

1. *Requests* all officers elected by the Executive Body, including the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and members of the Implementation Committee (referred to as “elected officers”), to sign the impartiality declaration as contained in the annex to the present decision prior to assuming their duties;
2. *Encourages* its subsidiary bodies to also establish this practice for their chairs and vice-chairs;
3. *Requests* that impartiality declarations signed under paragraph 1 or 2 above be submitted to the Bureau of the Executive Body and that the secretariat retain a copy of the signed declarations for record-keeping purposes.

Annex

Impartiality declaration

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I will perform my functions as an officer elected by the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in an impartial and conscientious manner. I will disclose immediately any interest in any matter under discussion before the Bureau or the body to which I belong that may constitute a real or apparent, personal or financial conflict of interest. Unless the relevant Bureau decides otherwise, I will refrain from participating in this work in relation to such matters.

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

Annex II

Record of voting

Vote on paragraph 37 (b)–(d) as proposed by the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Of the Parties present and voting,

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America voted affirmatively,

the Russian Federation voted negatively.

Vote on the addition to paragraph 37 (b) as proposed by Ukraine

Of the Parties present and voting,

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America voted affirmatively,

the Russian Federation voted negatively.

Vote on paragraph 37 in its entirety as proposed by the Russian Federation

Of the Parties present and voting,

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America voted affirmatively,

the Russian Federation voted negatively.

Annex III

Co-Chairs' summary of the thematic session on barriers to ratification and implementation of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012

I. Introduction

1. In the context of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012, the importance of holding a thematic session on flexibilities and barriers to ratification and implementation was highlighted by the Executive Body at its forty-first session (Geneva, 6–8 December 2021).¹
2. The thematic session was organized by the Gothenburg Protocol review group. The present summary was prepared by the session's Co-Chairs, review group members Mr. Noe Megrelishvili (Georgia) and Ms. Dominique Pritula (Canada).

II. Setting the context

3. The thematic session focused on flexibilities and barriers to ratification, introducing some of the key issues considered in the review, including an overview of the existing flexibilities in the amended Protocol and possible future options.
4. Key barriers to ratification were identified, along with potential solutions to overcome them. It was concluded that, in order to achieve the amended Protocol's goals, more needed to be done, including taking into account that non-Parties had been moving at different speeds and had different needs.
5. The key findings from responses to the guiding questions (circulated to non-Parties in advance of the session) were shared and they demonstrated the significant progress made. Several countries expressed the need for new flexibilities and the will to continue working with the amended Gothenburg Protocol in the future.
6. The Co-Chair of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues provided information on case studies conducted in Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia. These included an analysis of the possible technological pathways towards ratification of the amended Protocol. The analysis findings demonstrated the need for a potential shift in focus from ratification to implementation of measures to address different preferences and needs and that there was no "one-size-fits all" solution. Another conclusion was that being a Party to the Convention continued to be useful to make progress, especially in further developing quality emission inventories. The Co-Chair of the Task Force noted that the Task Force would continue to conduct case studies upon request.
7. The Co-Chair of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution provided information on the Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution and its first meeting (Gothenburg, Sweden, 16 March 2023).
8. The secretariat presented two e-learning courses on the Convention and its protocols and on emission inventories and encouraged participants to promote the courses.

¹ ECE/EB.AIR/148, para. 29 (g).

III. National perspectives of non-Parties

9. During the afternoon session, representatives of Parties presented their national perspectives on their key problems, barriers, gaps and needs, as well as possible solutions to overcome them.

10. The representative of Armenia noted the progress in monitoring and assessing air quality, publishing air quality data, developing an emission inventory and managing air quality. She pointed to existing barriers to ratification and implementation, such as other political priorities, high investment costs, insufficient expertise and insufficient quality of emission inventories.

11. The representative of North Macedonia identified the three main barriers for acceptance of amendment to and implementation of the amended protocols: limited technical capacity for preparing emission reduction commitments; lack of strategic documents to reduce air emissions domestically; and the need for major financial investments.

12. The representative of the Republic of Moldova noted the progress on implementing national legislation to reduce air pollution and improving emission inventories. She pointed to the lack of capacity and awareness-raising as barriers to ratification and stressed the need for long-term planning, human resources and funding.

13. The representative of Türkiye presented information on progress made in air quality management, emission inventories and modelling. She expressed the willingness of Türkiye to be involved in capacity-building and awareness-raising activities and to receive travel support to facilitate its participation in the work under the Convention.

IV. Opportunities for action

14. Overcoming barriers will be essential for future successes within the Convention. Solutions should be tailored to the capacities, economies and circumstances of countries not yet Parties to the key protocols in order to increase ratification and the implementation of air quality measures. The participants noted that it would be necessary to continue these discussions in the future and proposed that another thematic session take place in 2023 to further elaborate on these issues, as appropriate.

Annex IV

Revised list of documents for the sessions of the Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies in 2023¹

Working Group on Strategies and Review (sixty-first session)

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Provisional reference number</i>
Agenda	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/129
Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixty-first session	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/130
Draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention: policy-related aspects and elements	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/1
Options to address conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/2
Draft Guidance document on methane mitigation technologies	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/4
Draft Guidance document on shipping	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/5
Draft Guidance document on co-mitigation of methane and ammonia, and other nitrogen compounds, from agricultural sources	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/6
Report of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (informal)	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/INF.1
Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (informal)	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/INF.2
Report of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (informal)	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/INF.3
Draft Guidance document on non-technical and structural measures (informal)	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/INF.4
Policy brief on multilevel governance (informal)	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/INF.5
Report on the review of the rules of procedure (informal)	ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2023/INF.6

¹ Additional informal documents, not listed in the present note, can be submitted for consideration by the Executive Body and main subsidiary bodies.

**Steering Body of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and
Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe
and the Working Group on Effects
(ninth joint session)**

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Provisional reference number</i>
Agenda	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/1–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/1
Report of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects on their ninth joint session	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/2
Joint report by the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/3–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/3
Present state of emission data, review process and data for modellers	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/4–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/4
Financial and budgetary matters	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/5–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/5
Draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (science part)	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/6–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/6
Measurements and Modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling)	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.1
Integrated assessment modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling)	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.2
Emission inventories (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections)	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.3
Hemispheric transport of air pollution (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution)	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.4
Activities of the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.5
Review of adjustment applications	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.6
Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.7
Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Acidification of Rivers and Lakes	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.8
Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.9
Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.10
Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.11
Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1–WG.1/2023/INF.12

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Provisional reference number</i>
Technical report of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution	ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1-WG.1/2023/INF.13

Executive Body (forty-third session)

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Provisional reference number</i>
Agenda	ECE/EB.AIR/154
Report of the Executive Body on its forty-third session	ECE/EB.AIR/155
Draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/1
Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/2
Report of the Implementation Committee	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/3
Draft decisions of the Executive Body	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4
Guidance document on co-mitigation of methane and ammonia, and other nitrogen compounds, from agricultural sources	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/5
Guidance document on methane mitigation technologies	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/6
Guidance document on shipping	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/7
Report on the review of the rules of procedure	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/8
Options to address the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/9
Compliance with reporting obligations (informal)	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/INF.1
Report of the secretariat on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities to promote ratification and implementation	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/INF.2
Report on communication and outreach activities	ECE/EB.AIR/2023/INF.3
