



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ПРИРОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ И ЭКОЛОГИИ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

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OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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Courtesy translation

Mr. Marco Keiner

Director of Environment Division, Secretariat of the UNECE

Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Email: Marco.Keiner@un.org

Dear Mr. Keiner,

The Parties to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (hereinafter referred to as the Convention) at the 42nd session of the Executive Body of the Convention in December 2022, on the initiative of Ukraine, adopted a decision using a voting procedure to suspend funding for one of the three international Convention centers established in 1983, namely the Meteorological Synthesizing Center "East" (MSC-E), located in Moscow. In accordance with the same decision of the Parties to the Convention, the issue of the format of work and financing of MSC-E will be considered at the next session of the Executive Body of the Convention in December 2023.

The Russian delegation at the 42nd session of the Executive Body stated that the decision taken was illegal, since it contradicted the provisions of the 1984 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Program for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), through which EMEP covers the annual costs of international centers for activities, provided for in the work programme of the EMEP Steering Body.

In accordance with article 5 of the 1984 Protocol to the Convention, " an annual budget for EMEP shall be drawn by the Steering Body of EMEP, and shall be adopted by the Executive Body not later than one year in advance of the financial year to which it applies." This means that the 42nd session of the Executive Body of the Convention was to consider the annual budget for EMEP for 2024.

Thus, the decision on the sudden withdrawal of funding in 2023 of one of the existing scientific centers of EMEP, namely MSC-E, is considered by the Russian Federation as a violation of the 1984 Protocol to the Convention, as a result of which the existence of MSC-E is jeopardized, since the scientific center cannot carry out work without funding. As a result, it will be impossible to transfer the accumulated materials and methods to another scientific center, if such a decision is made.

Decision of the Parties to the Convention on MSC-E is inappropriate one, since it is unreal to expect that the Center will last a year without funding till December 2023, when the issue of the format of work and financing of MSC-E to be considered.

We especially note one more contradiction. The Parties to the Convention, on the one hand, noted the highly effective and professional work of MSC-E team for many years, and on the other hand, punished the MSC-E and its team with illegal withdrawal of funding and actual deprivation of their jobs.

Based on the circumstances, the Government of the Russian Federation decided to restore justice to the MSC-E team and to that end pay the assessed contributions to Russia for 2022 and 2023 in accordance with the obligations under the 1984 Protocol to the Convention directly to the budget of MSC-E of EMEP. This will allow MSC-E of EMEP to continue its work until December 2023, when the format of work of MSC-E of EMEP is to be considered.

The Government of the Russian Federation considers making the payment directly to the budget of MSC-E of EMEP in accordance with the invoices received by Russia for 2022 and 2023 as the only possible solution to ensure the fulfillment of Russia's obligations under the 1984 Protocol to the Convention in circumstances when making any bank transfer in US dollars for invoices issued is impossible to due to illegal blocking sanctions of the United States and the European Union against Russian banks.

Acknowledgement of receipt of the mentioned payment by MSC-E from the Government of the Russian Federation is attached.

Please accept, Mr. Keiner, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Sergey Anoprienko

Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and
Environment of the Russian Federation

Enclosure: a copy of letter of MSC-E Director with annexes - on 3 pages.