

## Proposed Draft Decision under Agenda Item 3(a)

*Prepared by the Executive Body Bureau<sup>1</sup>*

### Draft decision on the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East

*[The Executive Body,*

*Recalling* article 9 and other relevant provisions of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

*Recalling* also the provisions of 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),

*Noting* that the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-East), the international centre of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), has been hosted by the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East in Moscow (MSC-East in Moscow), Russian Federation<sup>2</sup>, since 1979 – the beginning of EMEP,

*Recognizing* the Centre's contribution to the scientific assessment of past trends in air pollution, in particular for heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants, throughout the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region and to the evaluation of the implementation of the Protocols to the Convention,

*Recalling* the Revised mandate for the MSC-East of EMEP adopted by the Executive Body decision 2019/11<sup>3</sup> at its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9-13 December 2019),

*Acknowledging* the support provided by the MSC-East in Moscow to the Parties to the Convention and EMEP until 31 December 2022,

*Emphasizing* that this decision does not propose any changes to the resources required to conduct the activities allocated to MSC-East of EMEP in its mandate or the workplan of the Convention and that there is, thus, no need to introduce changes into the annex to the EMEP Protocol,

*Recalling* its decision on MSC-East in Moscow taken during its forty-second session (Geneva, 12–16 December 2022), requesting the EMEP Steering Body to “assess options for reorganization and relocation of the activities currently implemented by the centre, with due consideration for the need to retain geographical balance, and to report back on that assessment to the Executive Body at its forty-third session”<sup>4</sup>,

*Further recalling* the recommendation of the EMEP Steering Body resulting from the ninth joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 11-15 September 2023) to the Executive Body to consider options 1 through 3 presented in the document entitled “Reorganization and relocation of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East activities: review of the options by the Steering Body to the

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<sup>1</sup> Some editorial changes have been introduced after circulation to National Focal Points on 5 December 2023.

<sup>2</sup> The Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East is hosted by a Moscow-based organization of the same name.

<sup>3</sup> ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.1.

<sup>4</sup> ECE/EB.AIR/150, para. 37 (b-d).

Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe” (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/7–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/7),

*Recognizing* the need to ensure continuity of scientific activities in the field of heavy metals (including mercury) and persistent organic pollutants to monitor their behaviour in the ECE region and to support and maintain outreach activities with other multilateral environmental agreements and bodies such as the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, and the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission,

*Welcoming* the offer of the Jožef Stefan Institute (Ljubljana, Slovenia) to host the centre as of 1 January 2024,

*Also welcoming* offers from Georgia and Ukraine to host all or part of the activities of the centre in the mid- to long-term perspective,

1. *Decides* to designate the Jožef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana, Slovenia, as the host of MSC-East, the international centre of EMEP, as of 1 January 2024, and *entrusts* the Jožef Stefan Institute with performing the activities of MSC-East of EMEP as per its Revised mandate and the biannual workplans for the implementation of the Convention, starting with the 2024-2025 workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/154/Add.1) and until the Executive Body decides otherwise;
2. *Also decides* to terminate the status of the MSC-East in Moscow, Russian Federation, as the host of MSC-East of EMEP as of 31 December 2023;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to implement the required formalities to effect the above decisions;
4. *Requests* the Jožef Stefan Institute to develop an implementation plan for the activities of MSC-East of EMEP as per its Revised mandate and the 2024-2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention, to be reviewed by the EMEP Steering Body at the tenth joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 9-13 September 2024);
5. *Requests* the EMEP Steering Body to develop a roadmap for the potential relocation for all or part of the MSC-East of EMEP to a country in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as [per Option 3] outlined in the document ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/7–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/7, paragraph 4 (c).]