



Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

- Update -

Tenth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs
27-28 November 2023

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Air Convention Background



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- Adopted in **1979**, entered into force in **1983**
- **51 Parties** to the **Air Convention**
- Between **24** and **47 Parties** to the **8 protocols and respective amendments** (all in force in 2023)
- Number of Parties to the **three most recent protocols**:

1998	Protocol on Heavy Metals	35
	2012 Amendments	26
1998	Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants	34
	2009 Amendments	24-25
1999	Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol)	31
	2012 Amendments	28

- **Purpose** of mitigating transboundary air pollution in the UNECE region
- **Pollutants** covered overall:
 - sulphur, nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, ammonia and particulate matter (including black carbon)
- **Multi-pollutant** and **multi-effect approach** of the Gothenburg Protocol

Air Convention

Recent Developments



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- **Results of the Gothenburg Protocol Review (2019-2022)**
 - Decrease of emissions of air pollutants covered (NO_x, SO_x, VOCs, PM), but only modest ammonia emission reductions and less reductions in the EECCA and Western Balkans regions
 - General improvement of emission reporting, but room for improvement regarding quality and completeness of inventories
 - Insufficiency of current legislation to achieve the long-term objectives of the Protocol (Art. 2)
 - **More Parties need to be included in the most recent efforts**
 - **Additional action is needed, also on methane as an ozone precursor**
- Further information: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/ECE_EB.AIR_150_Add.2_2305247E.pdf

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Recent developments



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- **Follow-up Process of 2023 – Options to address the review conclusions**
 - **4 policy options were analysed**
 - 1) No revision
 - 2) Targeted revision of specific annexes or overall revision of the Protocol
 - 3) Development of a binding or non-binding new instrument
 - 4) Cross-cutting enhancement of capacity-building, awareness-raising, cooperation and other support
 - **The experts recommended**
 - A **comprehensive revision of the Protocol**, including
 - Updating existing emission reduction commitments
 - Considering new, specific requirements for **black carbon**
 - Addressing **ammonia** emissions by revising the respective annex
 - Addressing **methane** as an ozone precursor
 - Updating the technical annexes
 - Addressing barriers to ratification and implementation
 - Considering synergies with other areas, such as climate and energy
- **The WGSR has followed the recommendation of revising the Protocol and the EB is to decide in December 2023**
- Further information: https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/ECE_EB.AIR_2023_9%20%28E%29.pdf

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Thank you!

<https://unece.org/environmental-policy-1/air>

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