

Decision 2023/1

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)¹ 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 Executive Body decision 2019/11² at its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019),

Acknowledging the fact that MSC-East in Moscow was operational under international funding 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”,³

Recalling also 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 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 Convention for the Prevention of Marine

¹ The Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East is hosted by a Moscow-based organization of the same name.

² ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.1.

³ ECE/EB.AIR/150, para. 37 (b-d).

Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft, the 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) to host the centre as of 1 January 2024,

Welcoming also the offer from Ukraine and the expression of interest from Georgia 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 (Ljubljana) 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 MSC-East in Moscow 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, subject to the Executive Body's 2022 decision pausing disbursement of funds to MSC-East⁴ and any subsequent Executive Body decisions relating thereto;
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, in due time, a road map for the potential relocation of all or part of the MSC-East of EMEP, to a country of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, according to the revised mandate for the MSC-East of EMEP adopted through decision 2019/11 by the Executive Body at its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019).

⁴ ECE/EB.AIR/150, para. 37 (d).