



Plan for the Revision of the Gothenburg Protocol

Till Spranger, WGSR Chair

Process

- up to 2022 Comprehensive **Review**
- Sep 2023 WGSR (assisted by Expert Group on Policy Options Development) **recommendations** and WGE / EMEP SB input
- Dec 2023 Executive Body **Decision** 2023 / 5 to revise the GP as amended in 2012
- May 2024 WGSR to discuss **Plan** on how to deal with 8 main revision issues, keeping in mind non-Parties
- 2024 - 26 **Negotiations**

Main negotiation items (EB Decision 2023/5, OP 2)

- (a) New **emission reduction commitments** (for current GP pollutants)
- (b) **Technical Annexes** (scope and level of ambition)
- (c) further **BC** emission reductions
- (d) whether and how to address **methane** emissions
- (e) additional **ammonia** emission reductions
- (f) new **flexibilities** etc. to facilitate ratification & implementation by non-Parties
- (g) overarching, collective **risk-based target(s)** (health and ecosystems/biodiversity)
- (h) **integrated approaches** among climate, energy and air policies

GP revision plan 2024 *as proposed by WGSR Bureau*

Meeting	Topics Covered (see para.s 13 & 14 for elucidation)	Recommendations and Decisions anticipated
WGSR 62 <i>May</i>	Plan for the negotiations: Discussion of full scope and priorities, gaps in knowledge, and timing. <u>Initial</u> discussion of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>scope and indicator(s)</u> for item (g) (<i>Targets</i>) • <u>base and target years</u> for item (a) (<i>ERCs</i>) • <u>scope</u> for item (d) (<i>CH₄</i>) • <u>scope</u> for item (b) (<i>TAs</i>) combined with item (f) (<i>Flexi</i>) 	Recommendations to EB on the full scope, priorities and timeline Report on the initial discussions
HoD Mtg. <i>October</i>	Continue informally disc. of scope, priorities and timing	n/a; informal report to the EB
EB 44 <i>December</i>	Plan for negotiations: Discussion on framework for negotiations inter alia on items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (a) (<i>ERCs</i>) • (g) / (h) (<i>Targets / Integration</i>) • (d) (<i>CH₄</i>) • (b) (<i>TAs</i>), and/or (f) (<i>Flexibilities</i>) 	Adoption of plan for negotiations; Allocation of tasks to subsidiary bodies as needed; Possibly decision on framework for negotiations on items discussed

GP revision plan 2025 *as proposed by WGSR Bureau*

Meeting	Topics Covered (see para.s 15 & 16 for elucidation)	Recommendations and Decisions anticipated
WGSR 63 ?	Items (a) (<i>ERCs</i>) and (b) (<i>TAs</i>) in connection with (f) (<i>flexi / new approaches</i>); Item (d) (<i>CH₄</i>)	WGSR recommendations to EB on the topics covered
WGSR 64 ?	Thematic meeting on certain pollutants: Items (c) (<i>BC</i>), (d) (<i>CH₄</i>) and (e) (<i>NH₃</i>) Initial negotiations on item (a) (<i>ERCs</i>)	WGSR recommendations to EB on the topics covered
EB 45 <i>December</i>	First set of revisions to text of Protocol for discussion, decisions on how to deal with items (a) to (h)	

GP revision plan 2026 *as proposed by WGSR Bureau*

Meeting	Topics Covered (see para.s 15 & 16 for elucidation)	Recommendations and Decisions anticipated
WGSR 65 ?	Updates to items (b) and (f) (<i>TAs and Flexibilities</i>) Thematic meeting on: Items (g) and (h) (<i>Targets / Integration</i>), also in relation to item (a) (<i>ERCs</i>)	WGSR recommendations to EB on the topics covered
WGSR 66 ?	Updates to Technical Annexes including Annex II, and protocol text	WGSR recommendations to EB on the topics covered
EB 46 <i>December</i>	Second set of revisions to text and Annexes (subject to previous decisions)	



Background documents

- Please note informal document for this meeting listing **background documents** to support the plan for the Gothenburg Protocol Revision.
- These documents are allocated to negotiation items (a) to (h) of the EB Decision on the GP Revision

Thank you for your attention!

Decision 2023/5 Launching a process to revise the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 and to address other conclusions of its review.

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision 2022/4 on the conclusion of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone as amended in 2012 (present Gothenburg Protocol), and the path forward ,

Recalling also the fundamental principles of the Convention, the objectives of the present Gothenburg Protocol, as specified in its article 2, and the strategic priorities of the long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex),

Recognizing the Convention’s contribution towards addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution,

Recognizing also the importance of maintaining momentum to ensure further progress on addressing the conclusions of the report on the review of the present Gothenburg Protocol,

Noting that the present Gothenburg Protocol, is complex and that progress towards ratification and implementation may be hampered unless new flexibilities and approaches are introduced to address existing barriers for current non-Parties,

Recognizing the importance of an integrated multi-pollutant/multi-effect approach to reduce air pollution, including the consideration of linked environmental policy concerns such as climate change and biodiversity,

Acknowledging that global methane reduction (in addition to methane, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compound control in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region) will be needed to reduce ground-level ozone in the ECE region,

Noting the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixty-first session (Geneva, 4–6 September 2023) (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/130),

Having considered the document entitled Options to address the conclusions of the review of the present Gothenburg Protocol, (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/9) and the recommendations contained therein, including the summary tables in accompanying informal document No. 4,

1. *Decides* to initiate the process to revise the present Gothenburg Protocol, in order to address the conclusions of the report on the review of the Protocol;
2. *Also decides* that the revision process will include consideration of, inter alia:
 - (a) New emission reduction commitments for the pollutants currently covered by the Gothenburg Protocol;
 - (b) Potential revisions to the technical annexes to the present Gothenburg Protocol including with regard to their scope and level of ambition;
 - (c) How to deliver further reductions of black carbon emissions;
 - (d) Whether and how to address methane emissions;
 - (e) How to achieve additional ammonia emission reductions;
 - (f) New flexibilities, and other approaches to better facilitate ratification and subsequent implementation by current non-Parties to the present Gothenburg Protocol;
 - (g) Overarching, collective risk-based target(s) to reduce harmful effects to health and to ecosystems including biodiversity loss in the ECE region;
 - (h) how to achieve integrated approaches among climate, energy and air policies.

3. Urges current non-parties to actively participate in discussions to revise the present Gothenburg Protocol with the aim of ensuring that any revisions take into account the different circumstances of current non-parties and facilitate ratification by those countries;
4. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to begin work to revise the present Gothenburg Protocol, at its sixty-second session, , and to report on its progress to the Executive Body at its forty-fourth session;
5. *Also requests* the WGSR at its 62nd session to develop a plan including timelines, to guide its work in revising the present Gothenburg Protocol based on a draft plan to be developed by the Chair of the WGSR in advance of the session as well as views submitted by Parties;
6. *Decides* to include two meetings of the Working Group on Strategies and Review in the calendar of meetings starting in 2025 to accommodate the revision process, and that the calendar includes two meetings every year until the end of negotiations subject to available resources;
7. *Encourages* Parties in a position to do so to consider hosting an informal meeting between the sixty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the forty-fourth session of the Executive Body, to make progress on the negotiations to revise the Gothenburg Protocol;
8. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review as part of the process to revise the Gothenburg Protocol to work to address barriers to ratification and implementation of the present Gothenburg Protocol, including through consideration of, inter alia, step-wise approaches to commitments and ratification, sector-based approaches, a focus on key sectors, restructuring of the technical annexes, replacement of annexes with guidance documents, or combinations thereof, and to continue discussions with non-Parties;
9. *Requests* the subsidiary bodies to ensure that activities in their workplans include relevant work for continued progress on meeting the objectives of the present Gothenburg Protocol and prioritize work that supports the revision process;
10. *Decides* to take action to enhance capacity-building, awareness-raising and cooperation within and outside of the ECE region considering the efficient use of resources including by:
 - (a) Calling on Parties to the Convention to provide voluntary contributions and bilateral technical assistance, such as for emission inventory improvements, emission projections, air quality monitoring networks and support for action plans, to build capacity in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, countries of the Western Balkans, and Türkiye;
 - (b) Requesting the secretariat, in consultation with non-Parties and the Working Group on Strategy and Review Bureau, and depending on financial contributions from Parties to the Convention, to develop a programme of action that identifies needs for resources and gaps in capacity, and report to the Executive Body at its forty-fourth session;
11. *Aims* to conclude the revision of the present Gothenburg Protocol by the forty-sixth session of the Executive Body, unless decided otherwise.