ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBoundary AIR POLLUTION

Working Group on Effects
(Nineteenth session, Geneva, 23-25 August 2000)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 August 2000

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Adoption of the report on the eighteenth session (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/2).

3. Matters arising from the seventeenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/68), the thirty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies (EB.AIR/WG.5/64), the twenty-third session of the Steering Body of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) (EB.AIR/GE.1/1999/2), and from the workshop on the future needs for regional air pollution strategies (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/14).

Documents prepared under the auspices or at the request of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for GENERAL circulation should be considered provisional unless APPROVED by the Executive Body.
Results and short-term goals of the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/3):

(a) International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/5);

(b) ICP on assessment and monitoring of acidification of rivers and lakes (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/6);

(c) ICP on effects of air pollution on materials, including historic and cultural monuments (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/7);

(d) ICP on effects of air pollution on natural vegetation and crops (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/8);

(e) ICP on integrated monitoring of air pollution effects on ecosystems (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/9);

(f) ICP on mapping of critical levels and loads;

(g) Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution.

Future development of the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4).

Review of scientific and technical knowledge:

(a) Summary report on the workshop on effect-based approaches for heavy metals (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/10);

(b) Summary report on the conference on critical loads (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/11);

(c) Preliminary assessment of the health risk of heavy metals (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/12).

Effects of heavy metals; outline for the 2001 substantive report (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/3).

Financing of effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/13).

Election of officers.

Other business.
EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group on Effects is expected to adopt the agenda of its nineteenth session.

Item 2: Adoption of the report on the eighteenth session

The Working Group on Effects is expected to adopt the report on its eighteenth session (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/2).

Item 3: Matters arising from the seventeenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the thirty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies, the twenty-third session of the Steering Body of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and from the workshop on the future needs for regional air pollution strategies

The secretariat will draw the attention of the Working Group to the relevant discussions held and decisions made by the Executive Body at its seventeenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/68), by the Working Group on Strategies at its thirty-first (EB.AIR/WG.5/64) and by the EMEP Steering Body at its twenty-third session (EB.AIR/GE.1/1999/2). The secretariat will also inform the Working Group about the present status of the Convention and the activities of the Executive Body and other subsidiary bodies that are relevant to it.

The secretariat will also present to the Working Group for its consideration and comments a summary report of the workshop on the future needs for regional air pollution strategies, held in April 2000 in Saltsjöbaden, Sweden (EB.AIR/WG.5/2000/7).

Item 4: Results and short-term goals of the effect-oriented activities

The Working Group will have before it the annual 2000 Joint report of the International Cooperative Programmes and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution on progress in the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/3, annexes I to VII). The report will also include a list of future tasks/activities to be addressed in response to the Executive Body’s priority needs.

(a) ICP on assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its sixteenth meeting held in Ghent (Belgium). The Working Group is expected to consider a summary report on the 1999 results of monitoring of forest condition in Europe (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/5), a summary report on the future monitoring strategy, information on the application of multivariate statistics within integrated studies on tree crown condition, and a progress report on the further development of level III monitoring (in cooperation with ICP Integrated Monitoring).
(b) ICP on assessment and monitoring of acidification of rivers and lakes: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its fifteenth meeting held in Pallanza (Italy). The Working Group will have before it an executive summary of the twelve-year report of ICP Waters (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/6). The lead country will also provide information on the further development of the monitoring network and the regional lake and river database, on the results of the 1999 intercalibration exercise and on progress in the work on heavy metals and in the development of dynamic models.

(c) ICP on effects of air pollution on materials, including historic and cultural monuments: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its sixteenth meeting held in Paris. The Working Group will have before it a progress report on the implementation and results of the multi-pollutant exposure programme (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/7). The lead country will also present a summary report on the most significant results of programme activities in 1987-1996 (for the general public), and a summary report on the workshop on mapping air pollution effects on materials, including stock at risk.

(d) ICP on effects of air pollution on natural vegetation and crops: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its thirteenth meeting held in Semmering (Austria). The lead country will also present the 2000 annual status report on the achievements of the programme (including information on progress in level II modelling for crops and natural vegetation), and will report on preparations for the European moss survey. The Working Group will also have before it a summary report on progress in the investigation of heavy metals deposition on vegetation (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/8).

(e) ICP on integrated monitoring of air pollution effects on ecosystems: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress, including the results of its eighth meeting held in Vilnius (Lithuania). The Working Group will have before it a summary report on the assessment of sulphur and nitrogen compound fluxes and trends on selected ICP Integrated Monitoring sites (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/9). The lead country will also present the programme’s ninth annual report (2000), including progress reports on the further assessment of the long-term effects of sulphur and nitrogen compounds, and on the development of cause-effect relationships for biological data. It will also provide information on progress in the development of dynamic models.

(f) ICP on mapping of critical levels and loads: the lead country of the Programme Task Force will report on progress in mapping critical levels and loads, including the results of its sixteenth meeting held in Edinburgh (United Kingdom). The Working Group will also receive information on the forthcoming expert meeting on dynamic modelling on a European scale (Ystad, Sweden, October 2000), provided by ICP Mapping, jointly with ICPs Forests, Integrated Monitoring and Waters. The Coordination Center for Effects (CCE) will provide information on the recent results of its mapping activities, in particular on critical loads data verification and quality, and on dynamic modelling, including data requirements and the development of a Simple Dynamic Model.
(g) Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution: the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health, leading the Task Force, will provide information on its activities, including the results of its third meeting held in Bilthoven (Netherlands), a progress report on the continuous assessment of population exposure to particulates, and summary information on the results of the preliminary assessment of health risk of heavy metals, and on action planned to address the potential health effects of selected POPs.

Item 5: Future development of the effect-oriented activities

The Working Group will have before it for consideration a note, prepared by its Bureau in collaboration with the secretariat, outlining priorities for the further development of effect-oriented activities, taking into consideration recent decisions of the Executive Body and the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/4). Taking also into account the main conclusions and recommendations of the workshop on the needs for future revisions of protocols and strategies on transboundary air pollution (Saltsjöbaden), the Working Group will consider the medium- and long-term objectives of individual programmes and the main tasks of their coordinating centres.

Item 6: Review of scientific and technical knowledge

(a) Effect-based approaches for heavy metals: the Working Group will have before it a summary report on the workshop on effect-based approaches for heavy metals, held in Schwerin (Germany) (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/10). The Working Group may wish to take note of the summary report and decide on further action.

(b) Critical loads conference: the Working Group will have before it a summary report on the conference on critical loads, held in Copenhagen (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/11). The Working Group may wish to take note of the report and decide on further action.

(c) Assessment of the health risk of heavy metals: the Working Group will have before it for consideration and approval a summary of the report on the preliminary assessment of the health risk of heavy metals (in particular from long-range transboundary air pollution) (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/12). The Working Group is also expected to consider a technical report on the topic.

Item 7: Effects of heavy metals; outline for the 2001 substantive report

The Working Group will have before it for consideration an outline for the 2001 substantive report on effects of heavy metals (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/3). The Working Group is expected to consider the proposal, and to decide on the outline of the draft report, the organization of work and the time schedule.

Item 8: Financing of effect-oriented activities
The Working Group will have before it a note, prepared by its Bureau in collaboration with the secretariat, on the financing of effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/13). The Working Group is expected to consider the note, summarizing the voluntary contributions received in 1999 and 2000, reviewing the use of the contributions in 1999 and presenting plans for 2000-2001, and approve its submission to the Executive Body at its eighteenth session.

Item 9: Election of officers

The Meeting is expected to elect a chairman and five vice-chairmen. The elected officers constitute the Bureau and will remain in office over the next session.

Item 10: Other business

The Working Group on Effects will have before it for consideration a provisional list of meetings for 2000/2001 compiled by the secretariat on the basis of information provided by the delegations and programmes.