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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Working Group on Strategies and Review
(Thirty-fourth session, Geneva, 18-20 September 2002)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 18 September 2002

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Draft legal instrument on the financing of core activities (EB.AIR/WG.5/72).
3. Preparing for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (EB.AIR/WG.5/2002/1 and 3).
4. Preparing for the review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals.
5. Preparing for the review of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (EB.AIR/WG.5/2002/2).
6. Exchange of information and technology (EB.AIR/WG.5/2002/4, 5 and 6).
7. Election of officers.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report.

<p>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.</p>

**EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA
AND TENTATIVE TIMING**

**Item 1: Adoption of the agenda
(Wednesday, 18 September, a.m.)**

The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda of the session.

**Item 2: Draft legal instrument on the financing of core activities
(Wednesday, 18 September, to Thursday, 19 September, with sessional drafting groups if necessary)**

At its nineteenth session, the Executive Body discussed the results of the work conducted by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its thirty-third session (EB.AIR/WG.5/70) concerning the financing of core activities. The Executive Body decided to finalize its work on the long-term financing of core activities at its twentieth session and to prepare input on it to the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” scheduled for May 2003 in Kiev and requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review to finalize the draft protocol by resolving the few issues still outstanding and to prepare, as an alternative, a decision and recommendation that would facilitate voluntary financing, including a proposal for reporting and recording contributions (ECE/EB.AIR/75, para. 18).

In the Ministerial Declaration adopted in Gothenburg (para. 10), the Parties recognized that the Convention’s core activities required adequate funding if the Protocols were to be implemented effectively and cost-optimal abatement measures further developed. To this end they requested the preparation of a stable, long-term funding arrangement, preserving the possibilities for contributing in kind, that included the international coordination of health and ecosystem effect-related activities and integrated assessment modelling, for instance by appropriately extending the EMEP Protocol.

At a meeting on 25-26 April 2002, the heads of delegation discussed further work to be done in response to the Executive Body’s request. The Working Group on Strategies and Review is expected to adopt the report on the meeting of heads of delegation (EB.AIR/WG.5/72). A revised preliminary draft protocol (annex I) and a draft decision (annex II) annexed to that report should serve as a basis for further deliberations.

As announced at the meeting of heads of delegation (EB.AIR/WG.5/72, para. 19), the Chairman will call upon every delegation, in a tour-de-table, to state its position with respect to the protocol and whether it would be ready to sign such an instrument.

**Item 3: Preparing for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol
(Wednesday, 18 September, p.m.)**

The Working Group on Strategies and Review is expected to assess work in preparation for a review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol, including progress in reducing acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone and the pollutants responsible for these effects. It will also review progress in the work on particulate matter pollution (emission inventories, health effects, atmospheric modelling and integrated assessment modelling). This work is to take into account the relevant activities under EMEP and the Working Group on Effects, and the relevant initiatives of the European Community as well as relevant national initiatives.

The Working Group will have before it the report on Integrated Assessment Modelling (EB.AIR/WG.5/2002/1), including the results of the twenty-seventh meeting of the Task Force, held in Oslo on 13-15 May 2002. The Task Force discussed, inter alia, options for defining target variables and other policy-relevant model output for the Gothenburg Protocol review.

The Working Group will also have before it a report on progress in the work on ammonia abatement (EB.AIR/WG.5/2002/3) prepared by the expert group, including the results of its second meeting on 26-28 November 2001 in Bologna (Italy).

The Working Group is expected to present to the Executive Body a proposal for further action and required input for a review of the Protocol.

**Item 4: Preparing for the review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals
(Wednesday, 18 September, p.m.)**

The Working Group on Strategies and Review is expected to assess work in preparation for a review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, including information on the measures scheduled for re-evaluation in the Protocol. This work is to take into account the relevant activities under EMEP and the Working Group on Effects, and the relevant initiatives of the European Community as well as relevant national initiatives.

The Working Group will be informed about progress in work related to heavy metals under EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. It may, furthermore, wish to take note of the progress made at the Coordination Center for Effects (CCE) and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E) of EMEP, which prepared a joint report on preliminary modelling and mapping of critical loads for cadmium and lead in Europe.

The Working Group is expected to prepare for the Executive Body a proposal on further action and required input for a review of the Protocol, including a possible effect-based approach as a basis for future action.

**Item 5: Preparing for the review of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants
(Thursday, 19 September, a.m.)**

The Working Group on Strategies and Review is expected to assess work in preparation for a review of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), including information on the pollutants scheduled for re-evaluation in the Protocol and on pollutants that are candidates for future inclusion. This work is to take into account the relevant activities under EMEP and the Working Group on Effects, and the relevant initiatives of the European Community as well as relevant national initiatives.

The Working Group will have before it the report on the further assessment of POPs (EB.AIR/WG.5/2002/2) prepared by the Chairman of the Expert Group on POPs, reflecting the discussions at its second and third meetings held in Torun (Poland) on 24-26 October 2001 and in Geneva on 5-6 June 2002. The report presents summaries of information relating to the scheduled reassessments of substance-related provisions in the Protocol on POPs and associated expert judgements. It also contains summaries of information on substances not included in the Protocol. The full compendium of information dossiers on the substances covered in the work of the Expert Group has been printed as an informal background document.

The Working Group will also be informed about the activities of the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution, led by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Task Force has conducted a health risk assessment of POPs (EB.AIR/WG.1/2002/14), which will be presented to the Working Group on Effects at its twenty-first session.

The Working Group is expected to prepare for the Executive Body a proposal on further action and required input for a review of the Protocol.

**Item 6: Exchange of information and technology
(Thursday, 19 September, p.m.)**

The Working Group on Strategies and Review is expected to review progress in the exchange of information and technology, including the work on techno-economic issues and information received on product-related measures to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), POPs and heavy metals.

It will have before it the report of the workshop on control technologies for emissions from stationary sources held in Warsaw on 5-7 December 2001 (EB.AIR/WG.5/2002/5). It will also have before it the executive summary (EB.AIR/WG.5/2002/6) of a report on the control of mercury emissions from coal-fired electric utility boilers made available by the delegation of the United States as announced at the thirty-third session of the Working Group (EB.AIR/WG.5/70, para. 37).

Furthermore, the Working Group will have before it a report on techno-economic issues (EB.AIR/WG.5/2002/4), including the results of the first two meetings of the Expert Group led by France held in Paris on 30 April and 14 June 2002.

Item 7: Election of officers
(Thursday, 19 September, p.m.)

The Working Group is expected to elect its vice-chairpersons for 2002-2003.

At its thirty-third session, the Working Group re-elect Messrs. D. JOST (Germany), J. ZUREK (Poland) and V. SOKOLOVSKY (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairmen and elected Ms. K. SCAVO (United States) as its new Vice-Chairperson (EB.AIR/WG.5/70, para. 68).

At its nineteenth session, the Executive Body re-elected Mr. R. BALLAMAN (Switzerland) as Chairman of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (ECE/EB.AIR/75, para. 107).

Item 8: Other business
(Thursday, 19 September, p.m.)

The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the preparations under way for a workshop on enhancing communications for the convention.

<p>On Friday morning, 20 September, starting at 10 a.m., there will be an informal information session on air pollution abatement policies in Canada and the United States. Experts from these two Parties will make presentations and be available to respond to questions.</p>
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Item 9: Adoption of the report
(Friday, 20 September, p.m.)

In accordance with established practice, the Working Group will adopt the report of the session.

To facilitate their access to the Palais des Nations, those delegates who do not have a valid badge should register with the secretariat by 4 September. Registration forms and explanatory instructions are available on the Internet at www.unece.org/env/wgs.