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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

Working Group on Effects  
(Twentieth session, Geneva, 29-31 August 2001)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 29 August 2001

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report on the nineteenth session (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/2).
3. Matters arising from the eighteenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/71), the thirty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (EB.AIR/WG.5/66) and the twenty-fourth 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.1/2000/2).

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.

4. Recent results and short-term goals of the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/3):
  - (a) International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/6);
  - (b) ICP on assessment and monitoring of acidification of rivers and lakes (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/7);
  - (c) ICP on effects of air pollution on materials, including historic and cultural monuments (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/8);
  - (d) ICP on effects of air pollution on natural vegetation and crops (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/9);
  - (e) ICP on integrated monitoring of air pollution effects on ecosystems;
  - (f) ICP on mapping of critical levels and loads;
  - (g) Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution.
5. Contribution of the effect-oriented activities to the effective implementation of the Convention:
  - (a) Long-term strategy for the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/4);
  - (b) Medium-term work-plan for the further development of the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/5);
  - (c) Draft outline of the report on review and assessment of the present air pollution effects and their recorded trends (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/3).
6. Effects of heavy metals; review of ongoing activities and their results (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/10).
7. Review of scientific and technical knowledge:
  - (a) Dynamic modelling; summary report of the expert group meeting (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/11);
  - (b) Effect-based critical limits for heavy metals; summary report of the expert group meeting (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/12);
  - (c) Chemical criteria and critical limits for steady-state and dynamic modelling; summary report of the workshop (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/13);

- (d) Atmospheric heavy metals and forest ecosystems; review of available data and current state of knowledge;
  - (e) Health risk of heavy metals; preliminary assessment.
8. Financing of effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/14).
  9. Election of officers.
  10. 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 twentieth session.

Item 2: Adoption of the report on the nineteenth session

The Working Group on Effects is expected to adopt the report on its nineteenth session (EB.AIR/WG.1/2000/2).

Item 3: Matters arising from the eighteenth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the thirty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the twenty-fourth session of the Steering Body of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)

The secretariat will draw the attention of the Working Group to the relevant discussions held and decisions made by the Executive Body at its eighteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/71), by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its thirty-second session (EB.AIR/WG.5/66) and by the EMEP Steering Body at its twenty-fourth session (EB.AIR/GE.1/2000/2). Special mention will be made of the decision and recommendation on the financing of core activities, the call for strengthened cooperation with other bodies/programmes within and outside the Convention (e.g. EMEP, the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, the European Commission's Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme), and the invitation to prepare a long-term strategy and medium-term work-plan for the effect-oriented activities.

The secretariat will also inform the Working Group about the present status of the Convention and the relevant activities of the Executive Body and its subsidiary bodies.

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

The Working Group will have before it the annual 2001 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.1/2001/3).

The report will include (i) a review of the cooperation of the Working Group's programmes and task forces with other bodies/institutions within and outside the Convention; (ii) an outline for the 2004 substantive report on the assessment of present air pollution effects and their recorded trends; and (iii) a list of future tasks/activities to be addressed in response to the Executive Body's priority needs (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/3, annexes I to VII).

(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 seventeenth meeting held in Ennis (Ireland). The Working Group is expected to consider a

summary report on the 2000 results of monitoring of forest condition in Europe (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/6), and a progress report on the cause-effect relationships prepared 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 sixteenth meeting held in Riga (Latvia). The Working Group will have before it an executive summary of the report on the in-depth evaluation of nitrogen in surface waters (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/7), and a note on the impact of short-term climatic fluctuations on the assessment of trends in water quality. The lead country will also provide information on the further development of the monitoring network and the programme's database with emphasis on biological data.

(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 seventeenth meeting held in Dübendorf (Switzerland). The Working Group will have before it the report on the evaluation of corrosion attack after one year of exposure in the multi-pollutant exposure programme (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/8). The lead country will also present a progress report on the further development of a database of environmental data for the multi-pollutant exposure programme and on preliminary results after two years of exposure.

(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 fourteenth meeting held in Louvain (Belgium). The lead country will also present the 2001 annual status report on the achievements of the programme (including information on recent results of experiments on the effects of ambient ozone episodes on crops and natural vegetation, and on progress in determining the critical flux for effects of ozone on biomass and on level II modelling for crops), and will report on progress in the European moss survey. The Working Group will also receive information on the effects of ozone on (semi-) natural vegetation including requirements for level II modelling and mapping (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/9).

(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 ninth meeting held in Rome. The Working Group will have before it the programme's tenth annual report (2001), and a progress report on the assessment of the recovery at selected ICP Integrated Monitoring sites. The lead country will also present information on continuing calculations of sulphur and nitrogen compounds, base cations and H<sup>+</sup> budgets, and heavy metal pools and fluxes, as well as on cooperation with other international organizations/bodies in addressing global environmental issues.

(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 seventeenth meeting held in Bratislava. The lead country will also present information about the recently held and forthcoming workshops and expert group meetings. The Coordination Center for Effects (CCE) will provide information on its recent activities, including the outcome of the eleventh CCE workshop on modelling and mapping (April 2001, Bilthoven, Netherlands), progress

in critical loads data verification and quality, and further development of methods and procedures for the assessment of recovery and risk of future damage. The Working Group will also have before it the CCE Status report 2001.

The Working Group is also expected to reconsider the new name of the programme taking into account the comments of the Executive Body at its eighteenth session.

(g) Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution: the World Health Organization's European Centre for Environment and Health, leading the Task Force, will provide information on its activities, including the results of its fourth meeting held in Bonn (Germany). The Working Group will have before it a summary report on the results of the preliminary assessment of the health risk of heavy metals. It will also receive information on the progress in the preliminary assessment of the potential health effects of selected POPs, and on recent results of the continuing assessment of population exposure to particulates from long-range transport and of its health effects.

Item 5: Contribution of the effect-oriented activities to the effective implementation of the Convention

In response to the invitation of the Executive Body at its eighteenth session, the Working Group on Effects is expected to draw up long- and medium-term plans for the effect-oriented activities and to consider possible ways and means for effectively contributing to the implementation of the Convention and to reviewing its protocols. To this end the Working Group will consider and finalize draft documents prepared by its Bureau, in particular:

(a) Long-term strategy for the effect-oriented activities (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/4), outlining the aims of the international scientific and research cooperation in studying and assessing the effects of air pollution within the framework of the Convention till 2010;

(b) Medium-term plans for the further development of the effect-oriented activities for 2002-2004 (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/5) aiming at updating scientific knowledge and data on the current state and trends in the quality of the environment and on the effects of selected air pollutants, in support of future review/revision of the existing protocols to the Convention;

(c) Draft outline of the report on review and assessment of present air pollution effects and their recorded trends (see the 2001 Joint Report of the International Cooperative Programmes and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/3)). The Working Group may wish to consider preparing this substantive report for presentation to the Executive Body in 2004 as its contribution to the expected review/revision of the existing protocols to the Convention.

Item 6: Effects of heavy metals; review of ongoing activities and their results

The Working Group will have before it for consideration a review of the ongoing activities of ICPs and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution addressing the occurrence,

movement and effects of selected heavy metals in the environment (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/10). The substantive reports on the topic prepared by ICP on assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution will be presented under agenda item 7.

Item 7:            Review of scientific and technical knowledge

(a)     Dynamic modelling: the Working Group will have before it for consideration a summary report of the expert group meeting, held in Ystad (Sweden) (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/11). The Working Group may wish to take note of the report and decide on further action.

(b)     Effect-based critical limits for heavy metals: the Working Group will have before it for consideration a summary report of the expert group meeting, held in Bratislava (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/12). The Working Group may wish to take note of the report and decide on further action.

(c)     Chemical criteria and critical limits for steady-state and dynamic modelling: the Working Group will have before it a summary report of the workshop held in York (United Kingdom) (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/13). The Working Group may wish to take note of the report and decide on further action.

(d)     Atmospheric heavy metals and forest ecosystems: the Working Group will have before it a substantive review of the available data and current state of knowledge prepared by ICP on assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests. The Working Group may wish to take note of the review.

(e)     Health risk of heavy metals - a preliminary assessment: the Working Group will have before it for consideration a summary report prepared by the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution. The Working Group may wish to take note of the report.

Item 8:            Financing of effect-oriented activities

The Working Group will have before it a note, prepared by the secretariat, on the financing of effect-oriented activities, summarizing the voluntary contributions received in 2000 and 2001, reviewing the use of the contributions in 2000 and presenting plans for their use in 2001/2002, and introducing an amended table of the essential coordination costs of different elements of the effect-oriented activities for 2002 and provisional costs for 2003 and 2004 (EB.AIR/WG.1/2001/14). The Working Group is expected to consider the note and approve its submission to the Executive Body at its nineteenth 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 2001/2002 compiled by the secretariat on the basis of information provided by the delegations and programmes.