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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Twentieth session, Geneva  
(10 – 13 December 2002)

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTIETH SESSION**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva  
starting at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 December 2002

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the ninth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy of concern to the Executive Body.
3. Financing of core activities (EB.AIR/WG.5/72, EB.AIR/WG.5/74 and EB.AIR/2002/6).

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. Compliance with protocol obligations (EB.AIR/2002/2 and Add.1).
5. Review of protocols and other strategy activities (EB.AIR/WG.5/74).
6. Progress in core activities (EB.AIR/2002/3 and Add.1):
  - (a) Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP);
  - (b) Effects of major air pollutants on human health and the environment.
7. Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution (EB.AIR/2002/1 and Add.1 and EB.AIR/2002/7).
8. Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention.
9. Work-plan (EB.AIR/2002/4).
10. Financial issues including amendment of the annex to the EMEP Protocol (EB.AIR/2002/5).
11. Other business.
12. Election of officers.
13. Adoption of the report of the twentieth 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 26 November. Registration forms and explanatory notes are available on the Internet at [www.unece.org/env/eb](http://www.unece.org/env/eb). The documents for the session will be made available on the same web site as soon as possible.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the agenda for its twentieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/76).

### Item 2: Matters arising from the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the ninth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy of concern to the Executive Body

The secretariat will draw the attention of the Executive Body to relevant discussions held in ECE forums, in particular those relating to the preparations for the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”. It will also point out issues of relevance resulting from the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg (South Africa) in August 2002. It will report on the status of the Convention and its protocols.

### Item 3: Financing of core activities

In line with the Ministerial Declaration made at the seventeenth session of the Executive Body in Gothenburg (Sweden) in 1999 (ECE/EB.AIR/68, annex II), the Executive Body is expected to reach agreement on a mechanism to secure a “stable, long-term funding arrangement” for the core activities (effects and integrated assessment modelling). The Executive Body at its nineteenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/75, para. 18) decided to finalize its work on such a funding arrangement at its twentieth session and agree upon any further course of action needed to bring the results of its deliberations to the attention of the Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” scheduled for May 2003 in Kiev.

As agreed at the thirty-fourth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, the Executive Body will have before it a preliminary draft protocol on the financing of core activities (EB.AIR/WG.5/72, annex I). It will also have a draft decision on the financing of core activities (EB.AIR/WG.5/74, annex) as recommended by the Working Group to the Executive Body. For the decision, the secretariat has prepared the necessary budget for 2003 and provisional budgets for 2004 and 2005 (EB.AIR/2002/6, annex I).

In addition, the Executive Body will have before it a “Decision and recommendation for the financing of core activities” (EB.AIR/2002/6), an updated version of the decision and recommendation taken by the Executive Body at its nineteenth session. The Executive Body may choose to use this text if it does not feel ready to accept the recommendation of its Working Group on Strategies and Review.

### Item 4: Compliance with protocol obligations

The Chairman of the Implementation Committee will present its fifth report (EB.AIR/2002/2 and Add.1) on compliance by individual Parties with their protocol obligations. The Executive Body is *inter alia* expected to consider the Committee’s recommendations.

At its nineteenth session, the Executive Body elected four new members to the Committee for a term of two years and re-elected three of its members for a further period of two years. At its eighteenth session, the Executive Body had elected two members to the Committee for a period of two years. These have now completed their term of office and elections are necessary. One of these two members has resigned from the Committee, the other is eligible for re-election.

Item 5: Review of protocols and other strategy activities

The Chairman of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will introduce this agenda item by referring to the discussions and decisions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its thirty-fourth session (EB.AIR/WG.5/74).

The Executive Body is expected to take note of the report and consider the relevant conclusions and recommendations.

Item 6: Progress in core activities

To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, the secretariat will circulate document EB.AIR/2002/3, containing a summary of the main issues and results, and highlighting conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Executive Body. The document is based on the following information:

(a) The results of the twenty-sixth session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/2), including the Steering Body's adoption of the draft guidelines on emissions reporting and of a decision on the legal status of the guidelines;

(b) The results of the twenty-first session of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/2002/2).

The reports will include outlines of the plans of the Steering Body to EMEP and of the Working Group on Effects to prepare substantive reports to support the review of protocols, including the resource implications for this work.

The Executive Body is expected to take note of these reports and of the relevant conclusions and recommendations.

The Executive Body is expected to approve the draft guidelines for estimating and reporting emissions data (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/7) and the Steering Body's decision on the legal status of some of the provisions of the guidelines for reporting emissions (EB.AIR/GE.1/2002/13). It may also wish to decide on the legal status of other provisions of the guidelines, taking into account the draft decision prepared by the secretariat that was based upon discussions by the Implementation Committee (EB.AIR/2002/3/Add.1, annex I).

Item 7: Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution

The secretariat will inform the Executive Body of the publication of the executive summary of the 2000 review of strategies and policies.

For the 2002 review, the Executive Body will be provided with a draft summary of the review prepared by a consultant in collaboration with the secretariat (EB.AIR/2002/1 and Add.1). The Executive Body is expected to comment on the draft summary and Parties will be invited to submit corrections and amendments in time for the publication of the summary of the 2002 review in 2003. The secretariat will draw attention to Parties' responses to the questionnaire being made available on the Convention's web site ([www.unece.org/env/eb/welcome.html](http://www.unece.org/env/eb/welcome.html)).

The Executive Body will also have before it an assessment of the Internet-based questionnaire and information on the problems encountered by Parties in its use (EB.AIR/2002/7). The Executive Body will be invited to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet-based questionnaire, the format and substance of the questions, in particular the new general questions section, the timing of distributing the questionnaire and the procedures adopted for collating responses and making them available, including the publication of results. It may wish to consider the various options identified by the secretariat. The secretariat will take these discussions into account when preparing the draft questionnaire for the next review of strategies and policies which is currently planned for submission to the Executive Body at its twenty-first session in 2003.

Item 8: Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention

The secretariat will report on relevant activities of ECE bodies. Representatives of international organizations (e.g. World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization) will be invited to provide information on their activities of particular relevance to the Convention. The Executive Body may wish to take this information into account when considering its work-plan.

The European Commission will be invited to provide information on the work of the European Community's Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme, especially in relation to collaboration between CAFE and the Convention's technical bodies and programme centres, and with respect to future cooperation with the Convention.

Item 9: Work-plan

The Executive Body will be called upon to agree a work-plan for the implementation of the Convention in 2003, also taking into account its medium-term requirements. To assist the Executive Body in accomplishing this task, the secretariat will circulate a draft work-plan (EB.AIR/2002/4), taking into consideration recommendations from the subsidiary bodies and results of ongoing activities. Delegations may wish to provide additional information for the work-plan.

Item 10: Financial issues including amendment of the annex to the EMEP Protocol

The Executive Body is expected to consider the status of the Convention and take the necessary steps to meet the costs of implementing the work-plan.

In particular, the EMEP Steering Body has recommended the Executive Body to amend the EMEP Protocol by adopting, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, the revised annex set out in the annex to document EB.AIR/2002/5. In addition, the detailed budget for EMEP for 2003 and its provisional budgeted amount for the period 2004 to 2006 (EB.AIR/2002/5) will be adopted under this agenda item.

Item 11: Other business

The secretariat will provide information on the current mechanism for informing Parties of decisions arising from sessions of the Executive Body. It will draw attention to the resources required to implement this procedure. The Executive Body will be invited to consider possibilities for streamlining this activity whilst maintaining its effectiveness.

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no other points to propose under this agenda item.

Item 12: Election of officers

The Bureau of the Executive Body currently comprises one chairperson and seven vice-chairpersons, including the chairpersons of the four major subsidiary bodies. The Executive Body is expected to elect these officers. They constitute the Bureau and will remain in office over the next session. The Executive Body is also expected to elect the chairperson for the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

Item 13: Adoption of the report of the twentieth session

The Executive Body is expected to conclude its work by adopting the report of the twentieth session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

**TENTATIVE TIMETABLE**

Tuesday, 10 December 2002

p.m. - Items 1, 2, 3,

Wednesday, 11 December 2002

a.m. - Items 3 (continued), 4, 5

p.m. - Items 5 (continued), 6, 7

Thursday, 12 December 2002

a.m. - Items 7 (continued), 8, 9

p.m. - Items 10, 11, 12

Friday, 13 December 2002

a.m. - Free

p.m. - Item 13