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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Twenty-first session
(Geneva, 15 – 18 December 2003)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 15 December 2003

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Matters arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, the tenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy and the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” of concern to the Executive Body.
3. Compliance with protocol obligations (EB.AIR/2003/1 and Add.1).

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. Review of protocols and other strategy activities (EB.AIR/WG.5/76 and EB.AIR/2003/7).
5. Progress in core activities (EB.AIR/2003/3):
 - (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.
6. Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution (EB.AIR/2003/2 and Add.1).
7. Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention.
8. Work-plan (EB.AIR/2003/4).
9. Financial issues (EB.AIR/2003/5).
10. Facilitation of participation by countries with economies in transition (EB.AIR/2003/6).
11. Other business.
12. Election of officers.
13. Adoption of the report of the twenty-first 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 1 December. Registration forms and explanatory notes are available on the Internet at 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 twenty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/78).

Item 2: Matters arising from the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, the tenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy and the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” 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 related to the fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” held in Kiev in May 2003 and to 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, in particular on the entry into force of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants on 23 October 2003.

Item 3: Compliance with protocol obligations

The Chairman of the Implementation Committee will present its sixth report (EB.AIR/2003/1 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 twentieth session, the Executive Body elected one new member to the Committee for a term of two years and re-elected one of its members for a further period of two years. At its nineteenth session, the Executive Body had elected four members to the Committee for a period of two years and re-elected three members to the Committee for a second term of two years. Those elected at the nineteenth session have now completed their term of office and elections are necessary.

Item 4: 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-fifth session (EB.AIR/WG.5/76).

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

In view of the entry into force of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) on 23 October 2003, it is expected that Parties to the Protocol will express their views on the review processes. To facilitate the required reviews, the Executive Body and the Parties to the Protocol will consider the draft decision, discussed and proposed by the Working Group on

Strategies and Review at its thirty-fifth session, on methods and procedures for reviewing the Protocol, reassessing/re-evaluating certain POPs and considering proposals for adding new substances (EB.AIR/2003/7).

Item 5: Progress in core activities

To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, the secretariat will circulate document EB.AIR/2003/3, 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-seventh 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.1/2003/2);
- (b) The results of the twenty-second session of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/2003/2).

The reports will include information on the plans of the Steering Body to EMEP and of the Working Group on Effects to prepare major reports to support the review of protocols.

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

Item 6: 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 summary of the 2002 review of strategies and policies.

The Executive Body will have before it a draft questionnaire on strategies and policies prepared by the secretariat (EB.AIR/2003/1 and Add.1). In keeping with the decisions of the Executive Body at its twentieth session, this questionnaire, to be circulated in early 2004, focuses on protocol-specific questions of particular relevance to determining compliance with the provisions of the Convention and its protocols. The questionnaire will again, where possible, make use of Internet technology with Parties' responses being made available through the Convention's web site (www.unece.org/env/eb/welcome.html). The Executive Body may wish to decide upon its requirements for reporting the results of the questionnaire to it at its twenty-second session.

Item 7: 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 8: Work-plan

The Executive Body will be called upon to agree a work-plan for the implementation of the Convention in 2004, 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/2003/4), 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 9: Financial issues

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 budgets for EMEP, and for the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol, for 2004 and provisional budgeted amounts for the period 2005 to 2006 (EB.AIR/2003/5) will be adopted under this agenda item.

Item 10: Facilitation of participation by countries with economies in transition

As agreed at its twentieth session, the Executive Body will reconsider decision 2001/6 on the facilitation of participation by countries with economies in transition. The Bureau has prepared a new draft decision (EB.AIR/2003/5, annex) that aims to take into account the wishes of the Executive Body expressed at that session. It also takes into account updated information on the status of Parties to the Convention.

Item 11: Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no 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 twenty-first session

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

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Monday, 15 December 2003

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

Tuesday, 16 December 2003

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

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

Wednesday, 17 December 2003

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

p.m. - Items 10, 11, 12

Thursday, 18 December 2003

a.m. - Free

p.m. - Item 13