

The participation of the Republic of Armenia in the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

To participate in the comprehensive and fruitful cooperation of States within the UNECE region, aimed at implementing measures for reducing emissions of harmful substances contributing to transboundary pollution, the Republic of Armenia ratified the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution on 21 February 1997.

In order to fulfil the obligations arising from a number of environmental conventions, including the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, in February 1998 the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted a Decree endorsing a programme of measures for implementing the obligations of Armenia under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

The Ministry of Nature Protection was given responsibility for coordinating the programme and submitting an annual report to the Government on the work accomplished.

Following the ratification of the Convention, the Government of the Republic adopted a number of documents with the aim of improving legislation in the field of air protection, and also meeting the requirements of the Convention. The most important are:

- “On Approval of the Procedures for the State Report of the Harmful Impact on the Ambient Air”, April 1999
- “On the maximum permissible limit values for emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere and their harmful physical impacts and on the issue of emission permits”, March 1999
- “On Regulating the Use of Leaded Petrol”, December 1999

By another Decree of the Government from 21 September 2001, the use of leaded petrol in Armenia was completely forbidden.

The Republic has carried out an inventory and has submitted, to the secretariat of the Convention, data on emissions of harmful substances in the air for the period 1980-2002, as well as data on the production, use, export and import of persistent organic pollutants regulated by the Protocol on POPs.

Furthermore, reviews of the Armenia’s strategies and policies in the field of air pollution control were submitted to the secretariat in 1998, 2000, and 2002.

With support from the secretariat, in 1998 – 2003 representatives of Armenia took part in the sessions of the Executive Body and in those of its three subsidiary working bodies.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia gives great significance to the measures for more active participation of the country and for achieving the goals and objectives of the Convention and its protocols; it considers as a priority the establishment of an EMEP site in the country, considers the issue of ratifying the EMEP Protocol and

hopes for support and technical assistance from the Convention, its working bodies and all of its Parties.

The Republic of Armenia signed the last three Protocols to the Convention: the Protocol on POPs, the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone. However, for a number of technical and economic problems, they cannot yet be ratified.

The Republic will make efforts to overcome these problems.

In relation to the 25th anniversary of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, we express our hope for further fruitful cooperation between the Parties to the Convention in the field of environmental protection.