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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSPOROUNDARY AIR POLLUTION**

Working Group on Strategies and Review
(Thirty-sixth session, Geneva, 13-16 September 2004)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 13 September 2004

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Preparing for the review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/2; EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/3 and Add.1; EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/4).
3. The review of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/1 and Add.1).
4. Preparing for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/5; EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/7; EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/8).
5. Emission inventories and data quality assurance (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/9).
6. Exchange of information and technology (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/6; EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/8).
7. Communication strategy for the Convention: twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention.

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.

8. Election of officers.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

To facilitate their access to the Palais des Nations, those delegates who do not have a valid badge should register with the secretariat by 27 August. Registration forms and explanatory instructions are available on the Internet at www.unece.org/env/wgs.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TENTATIVE TIMING

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

(Monday, 13 September, p.m.)

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

Item 2: Preparing for the review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals

(Monday, 13 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, taking 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 and international initiatives. 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 effects-based approach as a basis for future action.

The Working Group will have before it the report by the Chairman of the Expert Group on Heavy Metals of the second meeting of the Expert Group, which was held from 31 March to 1 April 2004 in Brussels (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/3). The report proposes elements of a work-plan for 2005-2006 for a possible task force on heavy metals. The Working Group will also have before it the results of the scientific and technical workshop on heavy metals (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/2), which was held on 17-18 November 2003 in Langen (Germany), and a workshop on mercury, which was held on 29-30 March 2004 in Brussels (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/3/Add.1). The Working Group will, furthermore, be informed about the progress made at the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE) and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-E) of EMEP.

The Working Group is expected to consider the draft methods and procedures for reviewing the sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, evaluating certain limit values and considering proposals for additional heavy metals (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/4), and transmit them to the Executive Body at its twenty-second session, when the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will take place from 29 November-3 December 2004.

Item 3: The review of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants

(Tuesday, 14 September, a.m.)

The Working Group on Strategies and Review is expected to assess work on the review of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), including information on the pollutants

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, the relevant initiatives of the European Community as well as relevant national initiatives. The Working Group is expected to prepare for the Executive Body a proposal on further action and input for the review of the Protocol.

The Working Group will have before it the technical input from the Task Force on POPs for reviewing the Protocol (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/1) prepared by the Co-Chairmen of the Task Force, reflecting the discussions at its first and second meetings held respectively in The Hague (Netherlands) on 1-3 March 2004 and in Prague on 31 May – 3 June 2004. The report presents summaries of revised dossiers for the scheduled reassessments of substance-related provisions in the Protocol. It also presents the proposals of the Task Force on the requirements for the preparation of the technical elements for the review of the effectiveness and sufficiency of the Protocol, proposed guidelines for the technical review of dossiers of new substances and a proposed structure for the reports for review/reassessments/re-evaluations of substances, as required by the Protocol. The technical review should evaluate whether sufficient information exists to suggest that the substance is likely to have significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects as a result of its long-range transboundary atmospheric transport.

Item 4: Preparing for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol

(Tuesday, 14 September, p.m., to Wednesday, 15 September, a.m.)

The Working Group on Strategies and Review is expected to continue its assessment of preparatory work for the 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 and decide upon any additional action required. 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 is expected to present to the Executive Body a proposal for further action and required input for a review of the Protocol.

The Working Group will have before it the report on integrated assessment modelling (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/5), including the results of the twenty-ninth meeting of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, held in Amiens (France) on 10-12 May 2004. The Task Force discussed, inter alia, the first results of baseline scenarios to be used for the Gothenburg Protocol's review.

Furthermore, the Working Group will have before it the report on progress made on ammonia abatement, including the results of the joint meeting of the Expert Group on Ammonia

Abatement and the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections (expert panel on agriculture and nature), including a half-day workshop devoted to agricultural emissions and abatement options in countries with economies in transition, held on 29 April – 30 April 2004 in Poznan (Poland) (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/7).

Item 5: Emission inventories and data quality assurance

(Wednesday, 15 September, a.m.)

At its twenty-second session, the Executive Body requested the Chairman of the EMEP Steering Body to produce, in collaboration with the EMEP Bureau and the secretariat, a note on emission data reporting, identifying quality assurance issues and proposals for improving data quality (ECE/EB.AIR/79, para. 48 (i)), and to submit it to the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

The Working Group is expected to consider the issues contained in the note by the Chairman of the EMEP Steering Body and decide upon further action (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/9).

Item 6: Exchange of information and technology

(Wednesday, 15 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 on product-related measures to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), POPs and heavy metals.

The Working Group will have before it the report on progress made in the development of a techno-economic database (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/8), including the results of the past two meetings of a steering group of the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues held in Angers (France) on 9-10 October 2003 and in Paris on 18 June 2004.

The secretariat will inform the Working Group on progress in the project for capacity-building for air quality management and the application of clean-coal combustion technologies in Central Asia, aimed at implementing the Convention and its protocols and funded from the United Nations Development Account.

The secretariat will provide information about the problems associated with the ratification and implementation of the Protocols on POPs and Heavy Metals and the Gothenburg Protocol in the countries in transition, obtained through the questionnaire, presented by the Russian Federation at the twenty-second session of the Executive Body (EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/6). The Working Group is expected to consider the information and decide upon further action.

Item 7: Communication strategy for the Convention: twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention

(Wednesday, 15 September, p.m.)

The Working Group may wish to further consider the implementation of the recommendations of the workshop on communications through a task force, expert group, network of experts and/or workshops, as well as the issues of outreach especially with regard to the possible development of a global forum on air pollution.

The Working Group will be informed about ongoing preparations for the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the Convention. The secretariat will also provide information on work to improve the Convention's web site.

Item 8: Election of officers

(Wednesday, 15 September, p.m.)

The Working Group is expected to elect its vice-chairpersons for 2004-2005.

At its thirty-fifth session, the Working Group re-elected Ms. K. SCAVO (United States), Ms. N. KARPOVA (Russian Federation) and Mr. J. SLIGGERS (Netherlands) as Vice-Chairpersons (EB.AIR/WG.5/76, para. 76), and elected Mr. P. JILEK (Czech Republic) as a new Vice-Chairperson.

Item 9: Other business

(Thursday, 16 September, p.m.)

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

An informal seminar on addressing air pollution issues in the countries in transition is planned for Thursday morning, 16 September, starting at 10 a.m. Representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Eastern European, Caucasian and Central Asian (EECCA) countries will be invited to give informal presentations. The seminar may also be used as an opportunity to continue informal discussions of the issues raised under item 6 concerning countries in transition.

Item 10: Adoption of the report

(Thursday, 16 September, p.m.)

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