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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Seventeenth session, Gothenburg (Sweden)
29 November - 3 December 1999)
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Proposal by the Bureau

Introduction

1. At its fifteenth session, the Executive Body decided on its future priorities for the period after the completion of the protocol on nitrogen oxides and related substances, and requested its Bureau to prepare a proposal for a new structure (ECE/EB.AIR/53, para. 46). The Bureau submitted a proposal for the Executive Body at its sixteenth session (EB.AIR/1998/5). The Executive Body approved the general approach and requested its Bureau to revise it on the basis of the discussions and to draft mandates for the bodies that would work with the new structure for its seventeenth session (ECE/EB.AIR/59, para. 58).

2. The protocol's negotiations having been completed, the Executive Body's priorities for the next few years will shift to:

- (a) Review and extension of existing protocols;
- (b) Implementation of and compliance with existing agreements.

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.

3. These two policy-related tasks require sound scientific support with emphasis on three areas, the core activities:

(a) Atmospheric measurements and modelling;

(b) Effects; and

(c) Integrated assessment, including modelling and economic benefit evaluation.

4. To ensure the scientific basis needed, it will be crucial to maintain the scientific networks that have developed during the preparation of the protocols. An active information strategy, focusing on the Convention's achievements and on new threats to health and environment, with specific reference to economic benefits, should be implemented with a view to increasing political awareness to back this up. To this end, targeted awareness-raising activities, also involving non-governmental organizations, should be included in the annual work plans adopted by the Executive Body.

5. It will most likely not be possible to count on the same level of political attention in the implementation phase as during negotiations. Basic funding of the core activities, nevertheless, has to be secured to give these activities a long-term perspective. Recent efforts have shown that it is not feasible to establish new legal instruments, similar to the EMEP Protocol, to cover effect-related activities and integrated assessment modelling. In the medium and long term, however, it is necessary to seek a stable financial mechanism, e.g. in the form of a financial agreement covering all core activities.

Proposal for organization of work

6. Work under the Executive Body would be organized in two segments: one providing the necessary scientific and technical support, the other providing a forum for policy-making (see chart).

(a) Scientific and technical segment

7. The Working Group on Effects (WGE) would remain as it is, coordinating the work of its Task Forces on Health (TFH) and Mapping (TFM) with the Coordination Center for Effects (CCE), and the International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs and their centres). It would provide the scientific basis for the review of the effects, including recovery of the environment and human health following emission reductions in line with protocols, and carry out

damage and benefit evaluations. It would also alert the Executive Body to any perceived additional, or changed, threats caused by air pollution that might require policy response.

8. The Steering Body to EMEP (EMEP-SB) would have a task force on emission inventories and projections (TFEIP), a task force on measurements and modelling (TFMM), two Meteorological Synthesizing Centres - east and west (MSC-E and MSC-W) - and the Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC). A centre for integrated assessment modelling (CIAM) would build on past modelling work, in particular the RAINS modelling, and cooperate closely with the EMEP centres and CCE. The continuity of the functions performed by the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (TFIAM) should be safeguarded, including its streamlined cooperation with the European Commission. To this end, the Task Force would be retained for the time being. To provide cost calculations for integrated assessment modelling, expert groups and workshops could be set up under it. These would explore new measures to reduce emissions, including structural changes.

9. To coordinate the preparation of annual work plans and budgets for the scientific and technical segment, joint bureau meetings of the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body would be held. The joint bureau, which should invite leaders of appropriate technical centres, when relevant to the discussion, would submit proposals to the Executive Body.

(b) Policy-making segment

10. A Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR) would initiate proposals to review existing protocols and to possibly negotiate new ones. It would also initiate and review any necessary revisions of technical and other annexes to protocols for which ad hoc expert groups could be established. In this context it would, in collaboration with the Implementation Committee, organize activities to review the performance of existing abatement policies by Parties and prepare recommendations for possible new approaches.

11. The Working Group on Strategies and Review would prepare proposals for any strategic development under the Convention for consideration by the Executive Body. The frequency of its sessions would be decided by the Executive Body.

12. The Working Group on Strategies and Review and the secretariat would be given responsibility, as appropriate, for coordinating activities related to the exchange of technology, with a view to promoting such work, inter alia, by organizing workshops on selected issues and providing information to relevant national and international institutions.

13. The Implementation Committee, according to its mandate, reviews Parties' compliance with obligations and makes recommendations to facilitate compliance, when necessary. It also advises on reporting by Parties on their strategies and policies for air pollution abatement. The Implementation Committee reports directly to the Executive Body.

14. The Bureau of the Executive Body would prepare policy-oriented proposals, as necessary, and would function as an inter-sessional forum for initiating strategic action and for securing necessary operational coordination. To enable the Executive Body to respond flexibly and efficiently to pressing new challenges, an arrangement would be introduced whereby its Bureau could decide upon urgent matters, as appropriate, based on scientific input from the Bureaux of its subsidiary bodies. Such decisions should subsequently be considered and confirmed, as appropriate, by the Executive Body itself.

Reporting and communication lines

15. Close informal and formal links should be maintained between all bodies, as is the case in the present organization. To strengthen multi-disciplinary cooperation, cross-sectoral meetings would be organized, as required, as well as joint bureau meetings. The Executive Body's Bureau would assume responsibility for such integrational activities.

Mandates

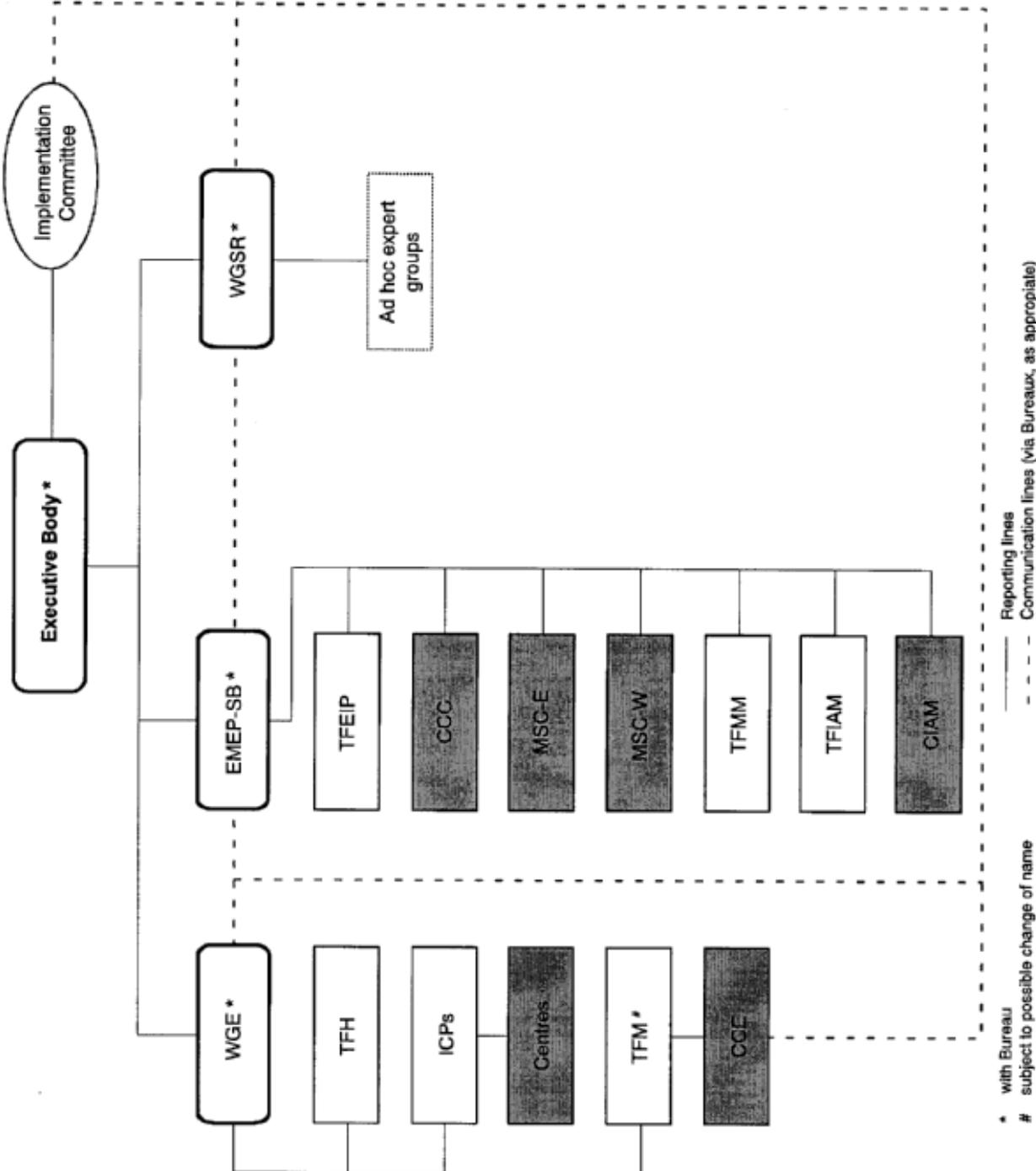
16. The Bureau proposes draft mandates for the main bodies under the Executive Body (annexes).

Outreach

17. The Convention has an important role to play as an example for similar action beyond the UN/ECE region. The secretariat, as guided by the Executive Body, would coordinate the dissemination of information and take an active part in raising awareness in other regions.

Conclusion and recommendation

18. The Bureau has prepared this proposal, taking into account the views expressed by delegations at the sixteenth session of the Executive Body. It is submitted to the Executive Body, as requested, for discussion and with a recommendation to adopt it. The Bureau proposes that, if adopted, the new structure and organization of work should take effect on 1 January 2000.



* with Bureau
subject to possible change of name

Reporting lines
Communication lines (via Bureaux, as appropriate)

Annex I

DRAFT MANDATE FOR THE BUREAU OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY

The Bureau of the Executive Body prepares policy-oriented proposals and functions as an inter-sessional forum for initiating strategic action and for securing operational coordination. To promote multi-disciplinary cooperation and integration, it cooperates actively with the Bureaux of the subsidiary bodies under the Executive Body.

Annex II

DRAFT MANDATE FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIES AND REVIEW

1. At the request of the Executive Body, the Working Group on Strategies and Review assists it on policy-oriented matters. In particular, it provides a forum for:

(a) Assessing ongoing scientific and technical activities relating to the potential needs for revising existing protocols and for preparing new protocols, primarily based on information provided by the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body;

(b) Negotiating revisions of existing protocols and annexes and the preparation of new protocols at the request of the Executive Body;

(c) Promoting the exchange of technology;

(d) Preparing proposals for any strategic development under the Convention.

2. The Working Group may set up ad hoc expert groups to address matters related to strategy and review.

Annex III

DRAFT MANDATE FOR THE EMEP STEERING BODY

1. The main objective of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) under the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution is to provide sound scientific support for the Convention, in particular in the areas of atmospheric monitoring and modelling, emission inventories and emission projections, and integrated assessment.
2. EMEP provides information on emissions, concentrations and depositions of air pollutants, as well as on the quantity and significance of their long-range transport across boundaries. EMEP also includes integrated assessment modelling, which brings together all relevant scientific information developed under the Convention, and evaluates current and new policies, including their long-term costs and economic benefits, taking into account uncertainties. Its results are intended to help Parties when they negotiate protocols to the Convention and when they develop and implement particular national air pollution control measures and consider international emission control strategies and agreements and their implementation.
3. Information produced by EMEP and information provided by Parties, together with the results of effect studies, form the basis for reviewing the implementation of the Protocols and the need to extend them. EMEP actively cooperates with the Working Group on Effects and supports the work of the Implementation Committee and the Working Group on Strategies and Review.
4. The EMEP Steering Body:
 - < Provides the Executive Body and other subsidiary bodies annually with an overall analysis of transboundary air pollution;
 - < Plans, supervises, assesses and guides the work of the EMEP centres and its Task Forces ^{1/};
 - < Prepares the annual draft work-plan for EMEP and the annual budgets for the EMEP centres and assesses the mandatory contributions from the Parties for final approval by the Executive Body;
 - < Develops the EMEP work-plans on integrated assessment modelling, and other areas where appropriate, in cooperation with the other subsidiary bodies under the Convention;
 - < Considers suggestions by Parties on short- and long-term financial and scientific voluntary contributions to EMEP and, based on the proposals by its Bureau, approves those to be included in the annual EMEP work-plan;

< Derestricts the EMEP technical reports and notes, thus enabling EMEP results to be posted on the EMEP Internet homepage to ensure the wide dissemination of its achievements among the Parties and the general public;

< Based on the recommendations by its Bureau, approves the mandatory contributions in kind to EMEP;

< At its annual sessions, its task force meetings and workshops, provides a forum for discussion and assessment of new scientific developments, the sharing of information and the coordination of work between EMEP and other national and international research programmes and organizations that work in the same field, as well as for the development of EMEP-related activities at national level.

5. The EMEP Steering Body elects its Bureau, which, inter alia:

< Monitors, evaluates and directs the work of the EMEP centres and their use of the financial and other resources between the Steering Body sessions;

< Prepares substance and financial matters for the annual sessions of the Steering Body and guides the preparation of documents and reports for the sessions;

< Approves the work-plan elements to be carried out as contributions in kind and prepares proposals for voluntary contributions to be included in the EMEP work-plan.

^{4/} At present the Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC), the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre East (MSC-E) and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre West (MSC-W) and the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections (name change under consideration), to be supplemented by the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling supported by the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling and a Task Force for Measurements and Modelling (under consideration).

Annex IV

DRAFT MANDATE FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON EFFECTS

1. At the request of the Executive Body and as required for the effective implementation of the Convention, the Working Group on Effects collects, assesses and further develops knowledge and information on:

(a) The present status and long-term trends in the degree and geographical extent of the impact of air pollution, in particular its long-range transboundary impact;

(b) Dose-response relationships for major air pollutants;

(c) Critical loads, levels and limits for major air pollutants;

(d) Damage and benefits, as a basis for the further development of air pollution abatement strategies.

2. The Working Group on Effects carries out work to:

(a) Assess the results and effectiveness of the implementation of the existing protocols to the Convention;

(b) Identify the most endangered areas, ecosystems and receptors and the extent of the effects of air pollution on human health and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and materials;

(c) Provide scientific substantiation for the review and further development of protocols;

(d) Support, in cooperation with the EMEP Steering Body, the work of the Implementation Committee and the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

3. The Working Group on Effects provides information for related scientific activities outside the Convention and/or for joint efforts with other bodies/organizations.

4. The Bureau of the Working Group on Effects undertakes the detailed planning, coordination, assessment and reporting of activities as defined in the work-plan for the implementation of the Convention and carried out by its subsidiary units.^{1/}

^{1/} At present the International Cooperative Programmes, the Task Force on Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and the Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution.

Annex V

DRAFT MANDATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

1. The Implementation Committee promotes and improves compliance with the existing protocols to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Its main task is to review compliance by the Parties with their obligations under the 1991 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes and Executive Body decision 1997/3; the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions and Executive Body decision 1998/6; the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals; and the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as well as any future protocols and decisions of the Parties related thereto.

2. The Committee assists the Executive Body by making recommendations on measures to facilitate compliance, when necessary, and by advising on the reporting by Parties on their strategies and policies for abating air pollution.

3. Where necessary to fulfil its functions, the Committee may inform the Working Group on Strategies and Review about its activities and seek guidance from it. Within its area of competence, the Committee shall also assist the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the Bureau of the Executive Body in any matter that the Working Group or the Bureau refers to it.