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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)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

to be held at Svenska Mässan, Gothenburg (Sweden)
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 29 November 1999

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (EB.AIR/1999/1 and 2).
3. Matters arising from the fifty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the sixth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy of concern to the Executive Body.
4. Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution (EB.AIR/1999/3).
5. Activities of the Working Group on Strategies (EB.AIR/WG.5/58, 60, 62 and 64).
6. Implementation Committee (EB.AIR/1999/4).
7. Future organization of work (EB.AIR/1999/5).

8. Progress in selected areas of cooperation (EB.AIR/1999/6 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;
 - (c) Technologies for emission control.
9. Work-plan (EB.AIR/1999/7 and Add.1).
10. Activities of ECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention.
11. Financial issues (EB.AIR/1999/8).
12. Other business.
13. Election of officers.
14. Adoption of the report of the seventeenth session.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the agenda.

Item 2: Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

The Executive Body will have before it the draft protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to abate acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone (EB.AIR/1999/1), as finalized and recommended for adoption at the thirty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies, held in Geneva from 26 August to 3 September 1999.

The Executive Body will also have before it the guidance documents on best available control technology and economic instruments (EB.AIR/1999/2), as finalized and recommended for adoption at the thirty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies. The Executive Body is expected to adopt the guidance documents before adopting the protocol (EB decision 1999/1).

Under this item, the Chairman of the Executive Body will invite a limited number of Ministers, representing different subregions of ECE, to make keynote statements. It is expected that other delegations will take part in a discussion reflecting the positions and strategies of Parties to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, emphasizing future priorities. Delegations may also wish to make comments and suggestions as regards the further implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, including the financial implications.

It is expected that the Executive Body will also adopt a ministerial declaration on the occasion of the adoption of the protocol.

Once the protocol is adopted, arrangements will be made for a signing ceremony on 1 December 1999, taking into account article 14 of the draft protocol. Consistent with the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and established practice for multilateral treaties for which the Secretary-General is the depositary, the Protocol should be signed by (i) Heads of State or (ii) Heads of Government or (iii) Ministers of Foreign Affairs or (iv) representatives duly authorized by one of these three authorities and possessing appropriate full powers.

A note on the special programme for the ministerial segment of the meeting will be issued separately.

Item 3: Matters arising from the fifty-fourth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the sixth 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 at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (E/ECE/1374) and at the sixth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/69).

Item 4: Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution

The secretariat will circulate the draft outline and questionnaire for the 2000 review of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement (EB.AIR/1999/3), prepared by the secretariat, taking into account the Implementation Committee's comments (EB.AIR/1999/4). Parties are invited to comment on the draft and to adopt it.

Item 5: Activities of the Working Group on Strategies

The Chairman of the Working Group will introduce this agenda item. The reports of the twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth, thirtieth and thirty-first sessions of the Working Group on Strategies (EB.AIR/WG.5/58, 60, 62 and 64) will be before the Executive Body. The Chairman will report on activities not directly linked to the negotiations of the new protocol, in particular regarding the need for further strategic work.

Item 6: Implementation Committee

At its fifteenth session, the Executive Body established the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/53, para. 50). The Implementation Committee will present its second report (EB.AIR/1999/4), including the results of its third and fourth meetings, which focused on the review of compliance with the reporting requirements in the protocols, the quality of emission data and the new questionnaire for the review of strategies and policies.

At its sixteenth session, the Executive Body elected four members to the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/59, para. 27 (h)), including the Chairperson. According to its decision 1997/2, the Executive Body will again elect four members to the Committee. Outgoing members may stand for re-election for one consecutive term, unless the Executive Body in a given case decides otherwise.

Item 7: Future organization of work

At its sixteenth session, the Executive Body approved the general approach for restructuring its work (EB.AIR/1998/5), as proposed by its Bureau (ECE/EB.AIR/59, para. 58). It requested its Bureau to revise it on the basis of the discussions and to draft mandates for the bodies working within the proposed structure. Accordingly, the Bureau has prepared a proposal for an organizational set-up for future work and draft mandates for major subsidiary bodies (EB.AIR/1999/5). The Executive Body is expected to consider the proposal and decide on the organization of work.

Item 8: Progress in selected areas of cooperation

To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, the secretariat will circulate documents EB.AIR/1999/6 and Add.1, containing a summary of the main issues and results achieved within the scope of the Convention. The documents are based on the following information:

(a) The results of the twenty-third 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.1/1999/2);

(b) The results of the eighteenth session of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/2);

(c) The results of the seventh session of the Working Group on Abatement Techniques (EB.AIR/WG.6/1999/2).

The Executive Body may wish to take note of these reports and of the relevant conclusions and recommendations.

Item 9: Work-plan

The Executive Body will be called upon to agree on a work-plan for the implementation of the Convention. To assist the Executive Body in accomplishing this task, the secretariat will circulate a draft work-plan (EB.AIR/1999/7 and Add.1), taking into consideration recommendations from subsidiary bodies and results of ongoing activities. The draft work-plan has been prepared taking into account the Bureau's proposal for future organization of work (EB.AIR/1999/5). Delegations may wish to provide additional information for the 2000 work-plan.

Item 10: 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 will be invited to provide information on their activities relevant to the Convention. The Executive Body may wish to take this information into account when considering the work-plan for 2000.

Item 11: 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 (EB.AIR/1999/8). In particular, the detailed budget for EMEP for 2000 and its provisional budget for 2001 will be adopted under this agenda item.

Item 12: Other business

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

Item 13: 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 may wish to decide on the number of officers in its future Bureau, considering the envisaged organization of work. Subsequently, it is expected to elect these officers. They constitute the Bureau and will remain in office over the next session.

Item 14: Adoption of the report of the seventeenth session

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

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Monday, 29 November 1999

- | | | |
|------|---|---------------------|
| a.m. | - | Items 1, 3, 4 and 5 |
| p.m. | - | Items 6 and 7 |

Tuesday, 30 November 1999

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| a.m. | - | Heads of Delegation meeting
or consecutive agenda items |
| p.m. | - | Item 2 |

Wednesday, 1 December 1999

- | | | |
|------|---|--------------------|
| a.m. | - | Item 2 (continued) |
| p.m. | - | Item 8 |

Thursday, 2 December 1999

- | | | |
|------|---|---------------------|
| a.m. | - | Items 9 and 10 |
| p.m. | - | Items 11, 12 and 13 |

Friday, 3 December 1999

- | | | |
|------|---|---------|
| a.m. | - | Free |
| p.m. | - | Item 14 |