



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION ON
LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION
Twenty-third session
(Geneva, 12 – 15 December 2005)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 12 December 2005

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the agenda for its twenty-third session (ECE/EB.AIR/86).

Item 2: Matters arising from the sixtieth session of the Economic Commission for Europe and the twelfth 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 sixtieth session of the Commission (E/2005/37-E/ECE/1431) and at the twelfth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/127). It will draw special attention to the Commission's Regional Implementation Meeting, scheduled for 15 - 16 December 2005, which is to discuss UNECE's input to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In 2006, this Commission will start its biennial discussions on the topics of air pollution, climate change, sustainable energy and industrial development.

The secretariat will also report on the status of the Convention and its protocols, in particular on the entry into force of the Gothenburg Protocol on 17 May 2005.

Item 3: Adjustment to annex II to the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol

Heads of Delegation have been informed of Cyprus' decision to accede to the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol and its request to the Executive Body to adjust annex II to the Protocol to add its name together with emission levels, emission ceilings and percentage emission reductions in accordance with article 13 of the Protocol.

The Executive Body is expected to agree on an adjustment to the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to facilitate Cyprus' accession.

Item 4: Progress in core activities

To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, the secretariat will circulate document EB.AIR/2005/1, containing a summary of the main issues and results, and highlighting conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Executive Body. The document, which will be presented by the Chairs of the relevant subsidiary bodies, is based on the following information:

(a) The results of the twenty-ninth 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.1/2005/2);

(b) The results of the twenty-fourth session of the Working Group on Effects (EB.AIR/WG.1/2005/2).

The Executive Body is expected to take note of these reports and of the relevant conclusions and recommendations. It may also wish to assess and, if appropriate, adopt a decision concerning the periodicity of emission data reporting under the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Protocol and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol, pursuant to a decision presented to the EMEP Steering Body for adoption by it at its twenty-ninth session in September 2005.

Item 5: Protocol on financing of core activities

The Executive Body will have to consider, as agreed in its decision 2002/1, the need

for adopting a protocol on the financing of core activities in light of the effectiveness of decision 2002/1 (see EB.AIR/2005/2). Any decision for future action may need to be included in the workplan.

Item 6: 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-seventh session (EB.AIR/WG.5/80).

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

In view of the decisions taken at the twenty-second session, due consideration should be given to the review of the Protocol on POPs and the work done in preparation for it (EB.AIR/WG.5/2005/1). In addition, the Executive Body will need to consider any further action necessary following the reviews of dossiers on pentabromodiphenyl ether (pentaBDE) and perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS), submitted to the Executive Body in 2004 by Norway and Sweden respectively. Action will also need to be taken on proposals for new substances for addition to the Protocol. The Parties to the Protocol and the Executive Body should also consider possibilities for amending the Protocol, taking into account options proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force on POPs in response to the request made to them at the twenty-second session (EB.AIR/WG.5/2005/1, section IV).

In view of the decisions taken at the twenty-second session, due consideration should be given to the progress made in the work on reviewing the Protocol on Heavy Metals, on scheduled re-evaluations, on the assessment of a satisfactory basis for using the critical loads approach and on procedures for technical review of new substances, product control measures or product groups that may be proposed for addition to the Protocol (EB.AIR/WG.5/2005/2).

In view of the entry into force of the Gothenburg Protocol on 17 May 2005, it is expected that Parties to the Protocol will express their views on the review process required under the terms of the Protocol. To facilitate the required reviews, the Executive Body may wish to consider the discussions held by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its thirty-seventh session on the elements required for review (EB.AIR/WG.5/80). The European Commission may be invited to present results from its work on its Thematic Strategy that are of relevance to the review of the Protocol. Consideration may be given to the inclusion of particulate matter and hemispheric transport in the review process. It is expected that the

Executive Body will agree on the timetable and content of the first review taking account of the requirements of article 10 of the Protocol.

Item 7: Compliance with protocol obligations

The Chairman of the Implementation Committee will present its eighth report (EB.AIR/2005/3 and Add.1) on compliance by individual Parties with their protocol obligations and on an in-depth review of the Protocol on POPs. The Executive Body is expected to consider the Committee's recommendations.

At its twenty-second session, the Executive Body elected one new member to the Committee for a term of two years and re-elected another for a further period of two years. At its twenty-first session, the Executive Body elected one new member to the Committee for a term of two years and re-elected six of its members for a further period of two years. Those elected at the twenty-first session have now completed their term of office and elections are necessary. The Executive Body may wish to appoint a Chairman for the Committee.

Item 8: Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution

The secretariat will circulate the draft questionnaire for the 2006 review of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement together with proposals for collecting and reporting information from Parties (EB.AIR/2005/4, Adds.1 and 2). The questionnaire was prepared by the secretariat taking into account comments received from the Implementation Committee (EB.AIR/2005/3/Add.1). Parties are invited to comment on the draft questionnaire and proposals and to adopt them.

Item 9: Further development of procedures under the Convention

The secretariat will circulate a paper setting out options for effective use of data and information by the Convention's subsidiary bodies, especially with respect to formal review processes, as well as options for representation of NGOs at Convention meetings, for further streamlining the Convention's documentation, for making better use of the Internet and for new procedures for the adoption of the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (EB.AIR/2005/5). The Executive Body is expected to consider these issues as well as possible proposals from the Working Group on Effects for new rules on data use under the Convention to replace those previously agreed by the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/42, annex V and decision 1998/4 in ECE/EB.AIR/55).

The Executive Body is expected to agree on any changes necessary for the future development of the Convention.

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 (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 Community will be invited to provide additional relevant information on the Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) programme including the development of the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution, the revision of the National Emission Ceilings Directive, collaboration between CAFE and the Convention's technical bodies and programme centres, and with respect to future cooperation with the Convention.

Item 11: Workplan

The Executive Body will be called upon to agree a workplan for the implementation of the Convention in 2005, also taking into account its medium-term requirements. In order to assist the Executive Body in accomplishing this task, the secretariat will make available draft workplans as agreed by each of the main subsidiary bodies, based on drafts submitted to them (EB.AIR/WG.1/2005/4, EB.AIR/GE.1/2005/10, EB.AIR/WG.5/2005/11), and will circulate an explanatory note on the new documentation procedures for adopting workplans (EB.AIR/2005/6). Delegations may wish to provide additional information for the workplan.

Item 12: 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 workplan.

In particular, the budgets for EMEP, and for the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol, for 2005, and provisional budgeted amounts for the future (EB.AIR/2005/2) will be adopted under this agenda item.

The secretariat will present information on donations provided to support activities for implementation of the Convention and its protocols in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and

Central Asia (EECCA), as well as a budget for future work in this area.

Item 13: Other business

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

Item 14: 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 15: Adoption of the report of the twenty-third session

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

To facilitate their access to the Palais des Nations, those delegates who do not have a valid badge should register with the secretariat by 15 November. Registration forms and explanatory notes are available on the Internet at <http://www.unece.org/env/eb/welcome.23.html>.

The documents for the session will be made available on the same web site as soon as possible.

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Monday, 12 December 2005

- | | | |
|------|---|------------------------|
| a.m. | - | Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, |
| p.m. | - | Items 5 (continued), 6 |

Tuesday, 13 December 2005

- | | | |
|------|---|----------------------|
| a.m. | - | Items 6 (continued), |
| p.m. | - | Items 7 |

Wednesday, 14 December 2005

- | | | |
|------|---|----------------------|
| a.m. | - | Items 8, 9, 10 |
| p.m. | - | Items 11, 12, 13, 14 |

Thursday, 15 December 2005

- | | | |
|------|---|---------|
| a.m. | - | Free |
| p.m. | - | Item 15 |