



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/EB.AIR/89
1 March 2007

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY ON ITS TWENTY-FOURTH
SESSION HELD IN GENEVA FROM 11 TO 14 DECEMBER 2006**

Part One: Proceedings

CONTENTS¹

	<i>Paragraphs</i>
Introduction	1–8
I. Adoption of the agenda	9
II. Matters arising from meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings	10

¹ Sections I–XV of this document correspond to agenda items 1–15 of the provisional agenda (ECE/EB.AIR/88).

CONTENTS (continued)

	<i>Paragraphs</i>
III. Progress in core activities	11–19
A. Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)	14–15
B. Effects of major air pollutants on human health and the environment.....	16–19
IV. Review of protocols and other strategy activities	20–42
A. Persistent organic pollutants	20–26
B. Heavy metals	27–29
C. 1999 Gothenburg Protocol	30–36
D. Exchange of information, communications and the action plan for EECCA.....	37–42
V. Financing of core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol	43–45
VI. Compliance with protocol obligations	46–56
VII. Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution	57–59
VIII. Opening the Convention and its protocols.....	60–62
IX. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to attend meetings under the Convention	63–66
X. Activities of UNECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention.....	67–70
XI. 2007 workplan	71–72
XII. Financial issues	73–88
XIII. Other business.....	89–90
XIV. Election of officers.....	91–93
XV. Adoption of decisions taken at the twenty-fourth session	94

Part Two: Decisions adopted by the Executive Body

For practical reasons, Part Two of the present report is being issued in a separate addendum (ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1).

Decision

- 2006/1 Data availability under the Convention
- 2006/2 Implementation Committee, its structure and functions and procedures for review
- 2006/3 Compliance by Slovenia with its obligations under the 1994 Protocol on further reductions of Sulphur Emissions (ref. 1/00)
- 2006/4 Compliance by Norway with its obligations under the 1991 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or Their Transboundary Fluxes (ref. 1/01)
- 2006/5 Compliance by Greece with its obligations under the 1998 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (ref. 2/02)
- 2006/6 Compliance by Spain with its obligations under the 1988 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or Their Transboundary Fluxes (ref. 4/02)
- 2006/7 Compliance by Spain with its obligations under the 1991 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or Their Transboundary Fluxes (ref. 6/02)
- 2006/8 Compliance by Denmark with its obligations under the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 1/06)
- 2006/9 Compliance by Iceland with its Obligations under the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 2/06)
- 2006/10 Compliance with Reporting Obligations
- 2006/11 Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to attend meetings under the Convention
- 2006/12 Funding for secretariat travel
- 2006/13 Facilitation of participation of countries with economies in transition

INTRODUCTION

1. The twenty-fourth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was convened in Geneva from 11 to 14 December 2006.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Community (EC).
3. The following States not party to the Convention were represented: Israel, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Uzbekistan. The African Union Commission was also represented.
4. Representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) attended. The European Environment Agency (EEA) was also represented.
5. The Meteorological Synthesizing Centre–East (MSC-E) and the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM) of EMEP were represented.
6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended: the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the World Chlorine Council (WCC), the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA), the Union of the Electricity Industry (EURELECTRIC) and the European Association of Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers (Euromot).
7. Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom) chaired the meeting.
8. The Executive Secretary of UNECE, Mr. M. Belka, addressed the meeting, noting the results of the UNECE reform and stressing the secretariat's plans to focus on the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) region. He also noted plans for the sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", to be held in Belgrade in October 2007.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The agenda (ECE/EB.AIR/88) was adopted.

II. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETINGS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND OTHER RELATED MEETINGS

10. The secretariat drew attention to the reports of the sixty-first session of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/ECE/1444) and the thirtieth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/132), as well as the preparations for the sixth "Environment for Europe"

Ministerial Conference. It noted the report of the fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/2006/29(SUPP)).

III. PROGRESS IN CORE ACTIVITIES

A. Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)

11. Mr. J. Schneider (Austria), Chair of the EMEP Steering Body, reported on the activities of EMEP, including the results of its thirtieth session, noting items reported at that session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2006/2). He drew attention to the importance of ensuring the high quality of the emission data, both for compliance checking and for modelling and policy purposes. There was a need to reorganize emission-related work under EMEP, and the Steering Body Bureau was exploring options. The Steering Body would propose a solution, and the Working Group on Strategies and Review might need to consider policy implications. Mr. Schneider noted the ongoing revision of the *2002 Emission Reporting Guidelines* and some proposals to make some elements of these “more mandatory”.

12. In the following discussion, a number of delegations expressed support for reorganizing the emission-related work, with the possible establishment of a new centre. It was noted that such a centre should service the entire Convention and its protocols and should consult closely with national experts on the construction of inventories.

13. Some delegations indicated that the Guidelines should be strengthened to improve the reporting process and ensure high-quality reliable emission data (e.g. by making National Informative Inventory Reports mandatory). Some delegations stressed the importance of the review process for improving data quality. A number of delegations emphasized the need to consider both the practical and policy aspects of emissions reporting.

14. The United Kingdom announced that it would cease to lead the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and that the Chair of the Task Force, Mr. R. Derwent, would step down at the next meeting. The delegation of France indicated it would be leading the Task Force in the future

15. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the thirtieth session of the EMEP Steering Body (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2006/2);

(b) Took note of the progress achieved by the EMEP task forces and centres in preparing the inputs for the review of the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol);

(c) Noted the progress made in the modelling and monitoring of heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and particulate matter (PM);

(d) Welcomed progress in the national implementation of the EMEP monitoring strategy and called upon Parties to continue their efforts towards its full implementation;

(e) Urged all Parties and relevant bodies under the Convention, and in particular non-EU countries in the EMEP domain, to provide the necessary data for integrated assessment modelling, including activity data;

(f) Welcomed the efforts to improve the quality of emission data reporting and the steps taken to revise the *2002 Emission Reporting Guidelines* and update and restructure the *EMEP/CORINAIR Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook*;

(g) Stressed the importance of including the EECCA region in the EMEP modelling activities and recognized the need for emission inventories and monitoring data for this region; welcomed the capacity-building efforts undertaken through the CAPACT and EU/TACIS projects; and called upon Parties to contribute to such capacity-building activities in the region;

(h) Welcomed the output of the second meeting of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and noted the preparation of the interim 2007 assessment report as an input to the review of the Gothenburg Protocol;

(i) Invited the Steering Body of EMEP and the Working Group on Effects to continue close cooperation in implementing the priority tasks of the Convention;

(j) Welcomed the continued and useful cooperation of EMEP with other international organizations;

(k) Took note with satisfaction of the work accomplished by CIAM that had been partially funded by the Trust Fund for core activities not covered by the Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants (EMEP Protocol); approved the proposed budget of CIAM for 2007 as set out in the report of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (EB.AIR/GE.1/2003/4, para. 59); agreed to keep the 2008 and 2009 provisional budgets at the same level; and called upon Parties to make every effort to provide the necessary funding for work on integrated assessment modelling to be conducted as foreseen in the workplan;

(l) Welcomed the funding provided by the European Commission for integrated assessment modelling;

(m) Invited the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Strategies and Review to consider the options for managing the national emissions reported to the Convention and to propose solutions to the twenty-fifth session of the Executive Body; and

(n) Invited the Working Group on Strategies and Review to consider, at its thirty-ninth session in April 2007, ways of strengthening the *2002 Emission Reporting Guidelines* to improve the reporting of emissions.

B. Effects of major pollutants on human health and the environment

16. Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway), Chair of the Working Group on Effects, reported on the effect-oriented activities, including the results of the Working Group's twenty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/2). He drew attention to the updated critical load and target load data and invited the Executive Body to approve their use in work under the Convention. He described the draft data rules for use by the Convention, which had also been agreed by the Steering Body of EMEP.

17. The Executive Body noted with appreciation the excellent work of the previous Chair, Mr. H. Gregor (Germany). It also noted the appointment of Mr. J. Tidblad (Sweden) as new Co-Chair of the International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on Materials and noted with appreciation the work done by the previous Co-Chair, Mr. V. Kucera (Sweden).

18. The Netherlands welcomed the progress reported and urged effective communication of results to the integrated assessment modellers and decision makers. Development of easily understood indicators would help highlight not only health risks but also impacts on materials and ecosystems.

19. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/2);

(b) Noted the further progress in developing the effects-oriented activities and the important results achieved by the ICPs and the Task Force on Health in implementing the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/3 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/3/Add.1);

(c) Expressed appreciation for the continuing progress in the application of dynamic modelling (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/14) and the major breakthrough in results following the call for data by the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE), and considered the use of the results in the review of the Gothenburg Protocol;

(d) Confirmed that the new 2006 European critical and target loads data and maps (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/10) might be used for work under the Convention, in particular in the review of the Gothenburg Protocol;

(e) Welcomed the progress achieved in cooperation between the bodies under the Convention and invited the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body of EMEP to continue their close cooperation in implementing the priority tasks of the Convention;

(f) Reiterated the importance of active participation by all Parties to the Convention, as well as of effective cooperation among the programmes, task forces and coordinating centres and

their close collaboration with EMEP, and welcomed the further development of close links with relevant institutions and organizations outside the Convention;

(g) Reiterated its invitation to Parties to nominate national focal centres for those effects-oriented activities/programmes in which they did not yet actively participate;

(h) Noted the importance of continuing the communication of the results and findings of the effects-oriented activities to the scientific community, policymakers and the general public, both nationally and internationally;

(i) Adopted decision 2006/1 on data availability under the Convention (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1);

(j) Noted document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/13, as amended, on the financing of effects-oriented activities;

(k) Noted with satisfaction the work accomplished by ICPs and the Task Force on Health which had been partially funded by the Trust Fund (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2006/13); and

(l) Noted the need for an improved approach to securing sufficient and stable funding for effects-oriented and integrated assessment modelling activities and consideration of further action to implement its decision 2002/1 to secure long-term funding for the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol.

IV. REVIEW OF PROTOCOLS AND OTHER STRATEGY ACTIVITIES

A. Persistent organic pollutants

20. The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), reported on the discussions and decisions of the Working Group at its meeting of heads of delegation (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/82) and at its thirty-eighth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/84). He noted the results of the fourth and fifth meetings of the Task Force on POPs regarding the track A and track B reviews of the five substances submitted for review at the twenty-third session of the Executive Body: hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd), octabromodiphenyl ether (octa-BDE), polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCN), pentachlorobenzene (PeCB) and short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCP). He also noted the ongoing track B reviews of pentabromodiphenyl ether (pentaBDE) and perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS) following completion the track A reviews of their dossiers (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/10). He drew attention to the report of the ad hoc expert group of legal experts that considered options for amending the Protocol on POPs (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/11).

21. A number of delegations commended the work of the Task Force and welcomed its results. Several delegations pointed to the need to consider work towards preparing for a revision of the Protocol and noted the report of the ad hoc legal expert group. It was agreed that different elements for revision were at different stages of readiness and that this might influence the priorities and

emphasis of work in the coming year.

22. The United States expressed the view that a decision to add five chemicals to the Protocol ignored several criteria laid out in decision 1998/2 and thereby undercut the scientific basis of the Convention. It considered that the dossiers for all five failed to provide sufficient information to meet the requirements of paragraph 2(b) of the decision and that, therefore, the substances should not be considered POPs. Moreover, it believed the indicative values were not met for HCBd (for persistence and bioaccumulation), octa-BDE (for bioaccumulation) and PCN (for persistence).

23. Attention was drawn to paragraph 31 of the report of the thirty-eighth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/84) concerning the interpretation of paragraph 2(b) of decision 1998/2, where Mr. Gregor had noted that “the Task Force on Health had discussed the interpretation of paragraph 2(b) and confirmed that actual observed health effects were not a prerequisite for including a substance in the Protocol on POPs. The likelihood of such effects due to potential build-up in the environment and bioaccumulation was considered sufficient”. Mr. D. Stone (AMAP) recalled the preamble of the Protocol, where Parties were “resolved to take measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize emissions of POPs”, which underlined the need to use a precautionary approach.

24. Canada stressed the importance of continued collaboration with the Stockholm Convention on POPs, which was also reviewing substances for addition to that instrument.

25. The Parties to the Protocol:

(a) Took note of the conclusions proposed by the Task Force on the technical content of the dossiers on hexachlorobutadiene (HCBd), octabromodiphenyl ether (octaBDE), polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCN), pentachlorobenzene (PeCB) and short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs); and

(b) Agreed that these five substances should be considered as POPs as defined under the Protocol and requested that the Task Force continue with the Track B reviews of the substances and explore management strategies for them.

26. The Executive Body:

(a) Welcomed the report of the work of the Task Force and thanked the experts, reviewers and lead countries for their efforts contributing to the work;

(b) Noted the progress made on track B reviews of substances and invited the Task Force to continue its work on these substances and complete the reviews, preferably in time for presentation to the fortieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

(c) Thanked the ad hoc group of legal experts for its work and took note of the options it had outlined for amending the Protocol;

(d) Stressed that, to overcome future difficulties in interpretation regarding meeting the criteria specified in decision 1998/2, Parties submitting dossiers on substances proposed for addition to the Protocol should ensure that these were well done and robust; and

(e) Requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review to:

(i) Consider, on the basis of the sufficiency and effectiveness review (EB.AIR/WG.5/2005/1), the outcomes of the scientific and technical activities relating to the need for potential revisions of the Protocol and, based on these considerations, prepare proposals as appropriate on, *inter alia*, the scheduled reassessments of the substance-related provisions and the potential revisions to the provisions of the Protocol related to best available techniques and emission limit values;

(ii) Prepare a proposal, as appropriate, for revising the Protocol in the light of ongoing work on management options for HCBd, octa-BDE, PCN, PeCB, SCCP, pentaBDE and PFOS;

(iii) Consider, on the basis of the report of the ad hoc group of legal experts (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/11), the possibility of an expedited procedure, including *inter alia* in combination with existing procedures, regarding amendment of the annexes to the Protocol and, if appropriate, to request the ad hoc group to submit a further report to the Working Group for consideration; and

(iv) Report on progress made on possibilities for strategic development of the Protocol to the twenty-fifth session of the Executive Body.

B. Heavy metals

27. Mr. Ballaman presented the results of the deliberations of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on the first review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/82, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/84). He noted the conclusions of the Task Force on Heavy Metals at its third meeting, including its evaluation of emission limit values (ELVs) for existing chlor-alkali plants and mercury-containing emissions from medical waste incineration as well as its report on the sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol. He also noted proposals for a future workplan including further technical work to assess the extent to which a satisfactory basis existed for the application of an effects-based approach (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/2).

28. A number of delegations noted that they considered the review of the Protocol complete and that the Task Force should look at further opportunities to reduce emissions. They stressed the need for Parties to provide appropriate experts to help the Task Force with further work.

29. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the evaluations made by the Task Force for ELVs for mercury from

existing chlor-alkali plants and from mercury-containing emissions from medical waste incineration (EB.AIR/WG.5/2005/2, annexes I and II), as required by the Protocol (annex V, paragraphs 19 and 23(c)), and agreed that the evaluations of ELVs have been fulfilled;

(b) Concluded that the technical elements of the sufficiency and effectiveness review proposed by the Task Force (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2006/2) and submitted to the Working Group on Strategies and Review were complete and agreed that the first review of the Protocol had been completed;

(c) Noted that information on, and a methodology for, an effects-based approach using critical loads had been provided for the EMEP region and that Canada had offered to explore and report on other effects-based approaches and management approaches;

(d) Noted that, in accordance with article 10, paragraph 4 of the Protocol, the elements listed in paragraph 22(f) of ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/84 should be reflected in the workplan of the Task Force for 2007;

(e) Took note of the concern of the Working Group regarding the need to improve the quality of emissions data on heavy metals and requested the Steering Body of EMEP to keep the Working Group informed on progress in its work to improve emission inventories; and

(f) Noted the global dimension of mercury pollution and requested Parties, subsidiary bodies and the secretariat to support initiatives by UNEP to address mercury emissions at the global level.

C. 1999 Gothenburg Protocol

30. Mr. Ballaman reported on the discussions and decisions of the Working Group at its thirty-eighth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/84) and the draft plan for reviewing the Protocol that had been circulated to and amended by the main subsidiary bodies (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/6). He noted that the review would cover also some information on, *inter alia*, particulate matter, hemispheric transport of air pollution, non-technical abatement measures, renewable energy sources and emissions from shipping. He noted the work of the Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement, the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues and the Network of Experts on Benefits and Economic Instruments and drew attention to the technical work started on the evaluation of ELVs for new and existing boilers and process heaters with a rated thermal input exceeding 50 MWth as well as of new heavy-duty vehicles according to article 3, paragraph 4 of the Protocol.

31. Italy, as co-chair of the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues, described the Expert Group's contribution to the review, stressing that a document on ELVs in annexes IV, V and VIII to the Protocol would be submitted to the thirty-ninth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review in April 2007. The delegation of Finland emphasized the importance of revising ELVs for nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from stationary engines.

32. The European Commission gave an update on progress in the revision of the European

Union (EU) National Emission Ceilings Directive. It also noted that work on updating and restructuring the *EMEP/CORINAIR Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook* had begun in collaboration with the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, and drew attention to efforts to harmonize reporting and monitoring obligations within the EU, which should also benefit reporting under other international agreements. It noted plans to review the GAINS model in collaboration with the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling.

33. Mr. M. Amann (CIAM) reported on CIAM's work to provide input to the review of the Protocol. He noted that only 24 Parties had provided data on energy projections for the baseline scenario; that there were often significant changes to emissions data reported; that data from non-EU countries were often unsatisfactory; and that there was a strong interaction between greenhouse gas policies and air pollution abatement. He also noted progress in the development of the GAINS model.

34. Sweden drew attention to the preparations for the workshop on air pollution and its relation to climate change and sustainable development to be held on 12–14 March 2007 in Gothenburg, Sweden (the "Saltsjobaden III" workshop), stressing the importance of addressing the linkages between climate change and air pollution policies, the increasing shipping emissions and the involvement of countries of EECCA in the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol.

35. In the following discussion, delegations proposed that the Swedish workshop be used to encourage countries to provide the necessary projections data. A letter from the secretariat could be used to prompt national action.

36. The Executive Body:

(a) Expressed satisfaction with the efforts made in planning and preparing the review of the Gothenburg Protocol and endorsed the timetable proposed in ECE/EB.AIR/2006/6;

(b) Agreed with the technical elements and the draft annotated report outline in ECE/EB.AIR/2006/6 and invited all subsidiary bodies to forward the necessary inputs to the secretariat to enable the Working Group on Strategies and Review to finalize the report at its fortieth session in September 2007 in time for submission to the twenty-fifth session of the Executive Body;

(c) Noted with appreciation the work by the Task Force and Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling and urged that this work should continue in order to provide a good basis for considering further action upon completion of the first review of the Protocol;

(d) Welcomed the progress made by the Expert Group on Particulate Matter and noted that the final report of the Expert Group would be available for consideration at the first review of the Protocol without prejudging possible inclusion of PM in a protocol;

(e) Noted the plans of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution to deliver an interim report in time for the first review of the Protocol;

- (f) Noted the fact that the Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement aimed to finalize its Guidance Document on Control Techniques for Preventing and Abating Emissions of Ammonia;
- (g) Took note of the work of the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues and the seminar on emerging technologies, noting the importance of this work for the eventual revision of the technical annexes to the Gothenburg Protocol;
- (h) Urged Parties to ratify the Gothenburg Protocol as soon as possible so that they would be more closely involved in the review process;
- (i) Thanked Sweden for its offer to organize the “Saltjobaden III” workshop; and
- (j) Urged Parties that had not yet done so to provide the necessary data for integrated assessment modelling, and to this end decided to use the “Saltjobaden III” workshop to encourage Parties, particularly EECCA countries, to provide the necessary projections data for the modelling work, and requested the secretariat to prepare a targeted letter to prompt national action.

D. Exchange of information, communications and the action plan for EECCA

37. Mr. Ballaman introduced the document on implementation of the action plan for EECCA (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/13), which the Working Group on Strategies and Review had decided to forward to the Executive Body for information. He noted progress in some areas of the plan but the need for more efforts in others.
38. The secretariat provided updated information on UNECE’s CAPACT² project in Central Asia; a Workshop on International Air Monitoring, Data Reporting and Environmental Effects had been held in October 2006 in Almaty with participation from nearly all EECCA countries. A further workshop on air pollution abatement techniques, possibly covering both stationary and mobile sources, would be organized for autumn 2007.
39. The Czech Republic announced the launch of a project to support the implementation of the Convention in Moldova, with a focus on the Gothenburg Protocol. The project would be coordinated by the secretariat, would involve Czech experts and would include capacity-building in emission inventories and in integrated assessment modelling.
40. The delegation of the Netherlands indicated it would provide 600,000 EUR to the trust fund for a project to help countries in South-Eastern Europe to ratify recent protocols. It also suggested that, to encourage participation by experts from countries with economies in transition, Task Force and Expert Group websites should present information on available funding assistance.

² Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia.

41. Finland noted that the action plan for EECCA should include reference to the EU Neighbourhood Policy, which might open channels to improve cooperation between the UNECE region and Eastern European (Balkan) countries.
42. The Executive Body:
- (a) Welcomed the steps taken towards implementation of the Action Plan;
 - (b) Took note of the progress in the implementation of the CAPACT project and invited the secretariat to continue to inform it on progress and follow-up plans at its next session;
 - (c) Welcomed the opportunity to strengthen the political commitment for accession to protocols and implementation of the Convention at the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Belgrade in October 2007, and invited its Bureau and the secretariat to ensure that the efforts to involve the EECCA countries in the work of the Convention would be appropriately highlighted;
 - (d) Urged Parties to contribute to the trust fund for assisting countries with economies in transition (Project E 112) in order to reach the goals set to help implement the planned activities;
 - (e) Invited the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue to review the implementation of the Action Plan and to report on progress at its twenty-fifth session;
 - (f) Welcomed the announcement by the Czech Republic of the launching of a project funded through the trust fund to support implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol in Moldova;
 - (g) Welcomed the announcement by the Netherlands of its intention to fund a project through the trust fund aimed at encouraging ratification of the three most recent protocols in five Balkan countries.

V. FINANCING OF CORE ACTIVITIES NOT COVERED BY THE EMEP PROTOCOL

43. Mr. Ballaman reported that the Working Group on Strategies and Review had made little progress towards agreeing on an effective financing mechanism for core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/84). A number of Parties had suggested that more information on the use of the funds should be sent with the letter requesting contributions and they had welcomed the secretariat’s drafting of a brief document in consultation with some delegations. While contributions in kind might support specific tasks or activities, this approach often involved practical difficulties. Some Parties were concerned by the distribution of non-earmarked funds between programme centres; the Working Group on Effects continued to indicate its preference for an equal distribution of funds since there remained a lack of transparency on the real contributions made by lead countries,.

44. In the ensuing discussion, several delegations welcomed the provision of more information

with the requests for contributions. Several suggestions were made for better targeting the letters, and some delegations noted the importance of acknowledging past contributions when requests were made. Some suggested a need to harmonize or combine requests for contributions to trust funds. Some indicated the need for further consideration of the issue of dividing funds.

45. The Executive Body:

(a) Invited the secretariat to provide a note substantiating the aims and use of the Trust Fund for core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol attached to the request for contributions in 2007; and

(b) Agreed to explore further possibilities for funding specified tasks as contributions in kind.

VI. COMPLIANCE WITH PROTOCOL OBLIGATIONS

46. Mr. S. Michel (Switzerland), Chair of the Implementation Committee, introduced its ninth report (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/3 and Add.1 and 2) on compliance by Parties with their protocol obligations, including the results of the Committee's seventeenth and eighteenth meetings. He drew attention to the report's recommendations, in particular those that proposed decisions concerning compliance by three Parties (Italy, Norway and Spain) with their obligations under the 1991 Protocol Concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or Their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on VOCs); by two Parties (Greece and Spain) with their obligations under the 1988 Protocol Concerning the Control of Nitrogen Oxides or Their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on NO_x); by one Party (Slovenia) with its obligations under the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (1994 Protocol on Sulphur); and by two Parties (Denmark and Iceland) with their obligations under the 1998 Protocol on POPs. He also referred to paragraph 10 of the structure and functions of the Committee concerning the lack of quorum in discussions on compliance with the Protocol on VOCs and the Gothenburg Protocol.

47. Mr. Michel highlighted the results of the Committee's annual review of Parties' compliance with reporting obligations and drew attention to the review's recommendation concerning non-compliance by certain Parties (EB.AIR/2006/3/Add.1, para. 36). While there had been continuous improvement in the completeness of reporting, including for the Protocol on POPs and the Protocol on Heavy Metals, there was still a problem with Parties reporting before deadlines. He reported on the Committee's in-depth review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals and on the Committee's progress on the in-depth review of the Gothenburg Protocol.

48. The delegation of Greece referred to correspondence from the Greek Ministry of Environment to the UNECE secretariat drawing attention to the lowering of the threshold for NO_x emissions and the elaboration of a new national plan which would include the control of NO_x emissions. He confirmed that a Greek expert would attend the meeting of the Implementation Committee in 2007 and would provide the latest data available.

49. In accordance with paragraph 7 of decision 2005/6, the delegation of Spain made a comprehensive presentation on its NO_x and VOC emissions projections and its policies for emission reduction.
50. The Executive Body thanked the delegations of Greece and Spain for their interventions. It requested the Implementation Committee to consider carefully, at its meeting in April 2007, the additional information provided.
51. The delegation of Norway confirmed that, according to the latest available information, Norway would have achieved compliance in 2005 with its obligation under the Protocol on VOCs concerning the national total emissions.
52. The delegate of Denmark confirmed that, at this stage, Denmark was not in a position to elaborate a timetable indicating the year by which it would achieve compliance with its emission reduction obligation under the Protocol on POPs. He pointed out that the increased emissions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were a result of increased residential wood burning, which had been encouraged as a measure to combat climate change. He described the measures envisaged or currently being taken by the Danish government to address the issue of increased PAH emissions.
53. The delegations of Slovakia and the United States provided additional information regarding their countries' compliance with article 3.2(b) of the Protocol on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/3/Add.2, para. 13).
54. The delegation of Slovenia pointed out that Slovenia was in compliance with its obligations under the 1994 Sulphur Protocol, with the installation of desulphurization equipment at the Trebovlje thermal power plant in October 2005.
55. The Executive Body took note of the ninth report by the Implementation Committee (EB.AIR/2006/3, Adds.1 and 2), expressing its great appreciation to the Committee's members, its Chair and the secretariat. It adopted:
- (a) Decision 2006/2 on amending the structures and functions of the Implementation Committee (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1);
 - (b) Decision 2006/3 on compliance by Slovenia with its obligations under the 1994 Protocol on Sulphur (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1);
 - (c) Decision 2006/4 on compliance by Norway with its obligations under the 1991 Protocol on VOCs (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1);
 - (d) Decision 2006/5 on compliance by Greece with its obligations under the 1988 Protocol on NO_x (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1);
 - (e) Decision 2006/6 on compliance by Spain with its obligations under the 1988 Protocol

on NO_x (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1);

(f) Decision 2006/7 on compliance by Spain with its obligations under the 1991 Protocol on VOCs (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1);

(g) Decision 2006/8 on compliance by Denmark with its obligations under the 1998 Protocol on POPs (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1)

(h) Decision 2006/9 on compliance by Iceland with its obligations under the 1998 Protocol on POPs (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1); and

(i) Decision 2006/10 on compliance by Parties with their reporting obligations in respect of emission data and of strategies and policies (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1).

56. Furthermore, the Executive Body:

(a) Requested the secretariat to communicate these decisions to the ministries of foreign affairs of the Parties in question;

(b) Reminded Parties of the importance of reporting on their strategies and policies as required by the protocols, and called upon those Parties that had not yet done so to report, or to complete their reports, as soon as possible, but in any event no later than January 2007;

(c) Expressed satisfaction with the Committee's in-depth review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, noting that most Parties were in compliance with their obligations under the Protocol but that some Parties reported inadequate or insufficient information to allow assessment of compliance;

(d) Requested the Committee to continue the in-depth review of compliance by Parties with their obligations under the Gothenburg Protocol;

(e) Requested the secretariat to provide available reports on emission data quality to the Implementation Committee;

(f) Invited its Bureau to consider the issue of a quorum of the Committee deliberating on protocols;

(g) Noted that Mr. A. Fretheim (Norway), Mr. H. Hojesky (Austria), Mr. V. Keizer (Netherlands), Mr. D. Langlois (Canada), Mr. C. Lindemann (Germany), Mr. C. Mallikides (Cyprus) and Mr. S. Michel (Switzerland) and would remain on the Committee for another year;

(h) Re-elected Ms. S. Vidic (Croatia) for a second term of two years;

(i) Elected Mr. P. Meulepas (Belgium) for a term of two years; and

(j) Thanked the outgoing member, Ms. M. Lešnjak (Slovenia), for her efforts and contribution to the work of the Committee.

VII. STRATEGIES AND POLICIES OF PARTIES AND SIGNATORIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE ABATEMENT OF AIR POLLUTION

57. The secretariat introduced a summary review document based on replies to the 2006 questionnaire on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement. The 2006 questionnaire had covered questions on compliance and general policies (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/4 and Adds.1 and 2). Twenty-five Parties had replied to the questionnaire, mostly via the Internet. The report had provided new general information on the Convention, as well as information on trends in emissions and effects. The information showed that emissions for SO₂, NO_x and VOCs had fallen significantly between 1990 and 2004.

58. In the following discussion, delegations expressed their appreciation of the report. Some delegations wished to propose small amendments to correct national information. Others suggested more radical changes, including proposals for new sections to the report and a changed emphasis regarding particular protocols or parties. A number of delegations stressed the importance of publishing the report in time for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference in 2007. Some delegates noted the importance of having an executive summary.

59. Taking the comments into consideration, the Executive Body:

(a) Agreed that the national responses to the questionnaire should be kept on the Internet to maintain a database of information;

(b) Invited Parties to provide corrections and updated information to the secretariat by 31 January 2007;

(c) Invited the secretariat to publish the 2006 review, with an executive summary, in time for the Belgrade Conference in October 2007; and

(d) Requested the secretariat to prepare the draft 2008 questionnaire, which should focus on questions on Parties' obligations to Protocols, in consultation with an ad hoc group of experts and to submit it to the Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session.

VIII. OPENING THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

60. The secretariat introduced the document on possibilities for opening the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/8) noting the current eligibility for accession to the Convention and its protocols, the legal aspects of opening the instruments and some of the practical considerations.

61. Delegations agreed that efforts to maintain outreach activities should continue. Some delegations proposed that the Executive Body should begin consideration of amending the legal instruments as a clear extension of current activities. Others urged caution, noting the practical

implications and the current heavy workload of the Convention bodies.

62. The Executive Body:

(a) Agreed to continue efforts to attract participation from non-UNECE delegations and experts at meetings under the Convention, especially on issues such as hemispheric transport of air pollution, and to develop further and extend outreach activities to regions developing their own agreements on air pollution, including consideration of the possibilities for interregional collaboration, through, for example, memorandums of understanding or special events/seminars for non-UNECE countries;

(b) Invited its Bureau to consider the issue of opening the Convention further to explore any alternative options, develop a more focused way forward and report back to the twenty-fifth session.

IX. ACCREDITATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ATTEND MEETINGS UNDER THE CONVENTION

63. The Chairman noted discussions at the twenty-third session of the Executive Body on developing new procedures for the accreditation of NGOs, since not all NGOs that could contribute to the Convention's work were United Nations accredited. The Bureau had proposed new procedures for accreditation (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/7).

64. One delegation expressed concern over the lack of a definition of an NGO and indicated it was unable to agree a position until this was resolved.

65. The secretariat proposed an alternative text using the term "bodies or agencies", a term used by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change when deciding upon observers. Delegations welcomed the alternative approach, but some Parties wished to consider the matter further before the twenty-fifth session.

66. The Executive Body provisionally adopted decision 2006/12 on accreditation of bodies or agencies as observers to sessions of the Executive Body and agreed to reconsider the matter at its twenty-fifth session.

X. ACTIVITIES OF UNECE BODIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELEVANT TO THE CONVENTION

67. Mr. Slobodan Nickovic (WMO) reported on the work of WMO, including the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) and other work linked to the Convention.

68. Mr. D. Stone (AMAP) drew attention to the recent AMAP Assessment 2006 "Acidifying Pollutants, Arctic Haze and Acidification in the Arctic". The report, which provides a convincing illustration of the circumpolar dimensions of the emission, atmospheric transport and deposition of acidifying substances in the Arctic, can be viewed at www.amap.no.

69. Ms. S. Logan (UNEP) summarized some of the work of UNEP on heavy metals and POPs, noting developments in the Stockholm Convention on POPs and UNEP's Global Mercury Programme.

70. Ms. A. Mourelatou (EEA) noted EEA's close cooperation with the Convention in the revision and updating of the *EMEP/CORINAIR Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook*, the inventory review programme and the upcoming PM assessment report. She described progress in the setting up of EEA's Data Centre and future plans for this. She also provided information on recent and planned publications.

XI. 2007 WORKPLAN

71. The secretariat introduced the note on the workplan of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/5), noting the draft texts provided by the Convention's subsidiary bodies (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/9, ECE/EB.AIR/2006/10, ECE/EB.AIR/2006/11 and ECE/EB.AIR/2006/3/Add.2, annex). It also introduced the provisional list of meetings for 2007.

72. The Executive Body:

(a) Agreed that the procedures for the workplan used in 2005 and 2006 had worked well and agreed to continue to use these in the future;

(b) Adopted its 2007 workplan as amended and instructed the secretariat to post it on the Convention's website; and

(c) Noted the problems associated with lack of participation in the work of the Expert Group on Techno-economic issues and urged Parties to nominate experts for the Expert Group.

XII. FINANCIAL ISSUES

73. The secretariat introduced the note on the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/2) presenting *inter alia* the detailed budget of EMEP for 2007 and its provisional budgets for 2008 and 2009.

74. The secretariat provided updated information on the trust fund and the status of payment of the mandatory contributions for the EMEP Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/2, section I) and invited comments on additional contributions. It pointed out that with the accession of Montenegro in 2006, the EMEP Protocol had 42 Parties.

75. The delegation of Germany expressed its reservations regarding its contribution for 2007, which, in Germany's view, represented a disproportionate share of the budget.

76. The Executive Body:

(a) Decided on the detailed use of resources in 2007 as set out in ECE/EB.AIR/2006/2, table 2, and on the scale of mandatory contributions as set out in table 3 (last two columns);

(b) Supported the Steering Body's call on the Parties to the EMEP Protocol to consider making additional voluntary contributions (in kind or in cash through the Trust Fund) to ensure that the work, especially the difficult tasks required in 2007 for carrying out the protocol reviews, including the work on integrated assessment modelling, could be accomplished as foreseen in the workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2006/2, para. 74(h));

(c) Welcomed the accession of Montenegro to the EMEP Protocol and requested the secretariat to prepare a revised annex to the EMEP Protocol to take account of the accession of Montenegro, applying the 2007 United Nations scale of assessments, for adoption by the Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session;

(d) Requested the Steering Body, with the assistance of its Bureau, to present the details of the 2008 budget applying the 2007 United Nations scale of assessments together with the workplan for approval by the Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session; and

(e) Urged Parties that had not yet done so to pay their 2006 contributions in cash to the Trust Fund and, in 2007, to pay their contributions so that these reached the Trust Fund in the first half of the year.

77. The secretariat provided updated information on the status of payments of the contributions under decision 2002/1 in cash and in kind for 2005 and 2006 to the Trust Fund for core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/2, section II). It also outlined the requirements for funding these activities for 2006.

78. The delegation of the Netherlands questioned the current mechanism of even distribution of non-earmarked funds to programme centres, suggesting that a different procedure should be used. The delegate from Germany stressed that the needs of the centres should also be taken into account. The secretariat and the Chair of the Working Group on Effects drew attention to the difficulties of using alternative distribution mechanisms. The Executive Body agreed that a small ad hoc group should propose alternative mechanism at the twenty-fifth session.

79. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the contributions made to the Trust Fund for 2006, welcomed the payments made, but expressed disappointment at the lack of response by many Parties;

(b) Decided that the essential coordination costs for financing the core activities of the Convention and its protocols, other than those covered by the EMEP Protocol, would be US\$ 2,152,700 in 2007, and provisionally US\$ 2,152,700 in 2008 and US\$ 2,152,700 in 2009;

(c) Requested the secretariat to inform Parties of their recommended contributions to meet the 2007 budget, inviting them to make contributions as agreed in decision 2002/1;

(d) Urged all Parties which had not yet done so to consider providing voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for financing core activities without undue delay;

(e) Requested the secretariat to prepare a revision to decision 2002/1, in particular to take account of the accession of Montenegro, applying the 2007 United Nations scale of assessments, for adoption by the Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session;

(f) Agreed to set up a small ad hoc group to draft a document, for discussion at its twenty-fifth session, devising alternatives for distributing non-earmarked funds among the eight centres supported by the trust fund for core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol; the group would comprise experts from Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom as well as the Chair of the Working Group on Effects and the secretariat, while also remaining open to other interested Parties; the current even distribution of non-earmarked funds would continue pending a decision at the twenty-fifth session;

(g) Agreed that in-kind contributions towards effects-oriented activities and integrated modelling that fell outside the scope of decision 2002/1 of the Executive Body could be recorded; and

(h) Noted with appreciation the essential support provided to the Convention and its bodies by lead countries, countries hosting coordinating centres and those organizing meetings, as well as countries that fund activities of their national focal centres/points and the active participation of national experts.

80. The secretariat provided information on trust fund E112 to support participation from and capacity-building in countries with economies in transition (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/2, section IV). The secretariat drew attention to income and expenditure for 2005 and 2006 and proposed a budget for 2007. It noted that additional work and income would result from the Czech Republic project for Moldova. Additional sums were also likely to come from the Balkans project funded by the Netherlands.

81. The Executive Body noted the increasing contributions but recognized that a higher ambition level was needed to achieve its goals. The secretariat noted the problems associated with large proportions of earmarked funding. Parties already donating called upon others to contribute to the trust fund.

82. The Executive Body:

(a) Welcomed the increased contributions to the Trust Fund and thanked those countries that had contributed;

(b) Approved the list of activities, as amended, and the proposed budget for project E112 of US\$ 360,000 for 2007 (including the contribution from the Czech Republic) and the provisional budgets of US\$ 250,000 for 2008 and 2009;

(c) Urged all Parties to make contributions to the Trust Fund, as early as possible in 2007, so that the secretariat could implement its plans; and, noting there were many Parties that had not yet contributed, especially urged these to consider how they might address the shortfall in funding and the work planned for 2007;

(d) Invited the secretariat to write to ministries of foreign affairs and heads of delegation inviting contributions to the Trust Fund;

(e) Invited Parties, especially those that lead task forces and expert groups, to promote activities, such as special workshops, in EECCA countries and collaborate with the secretariat in developing such plans.

83. The secretariat introduced the proposals for using the Trust Fund to support the travel of the secretariat to meetings under the Convention.

84. Delegations expressed their sympathy with the difficulties experienced by the secretariat. Some delegations noted possible problems with their financing regulations that might make payments to the Trust Fund difficult, but agreed to investigate further. The delegation of France indicated that it did not have an officially agreed position.

85. The Executive Body agreed decision 2006/12 (see ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1).

86. The secretariat noted the need to consider revision of decision 2005/9, since Croatia and the Russian Federation were no longer on the list of countries supported by the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy.

87. The Executive Body agreed to adopt decision 2006/13 on facilitation of participation by countries with economies in transition by amending decision 2005/9 as follows: deleting the names of Croatia and the Russian Federation from the list of countries receiving regular support and replacing “Serbia and Montenegro” by the two independent States – “Serbia” and “Montenegro”.

88. The Executive Body further agreed to request the secretariat to provide, at its twenty-fifth session, a list of countries that have participated in meetings with support from the Trust Fund.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

89. The delegate of Belgium noted possible problems with the definition of new stationary sources in annexes to the protocols. Some delegations felt that the definition was already clear, while others considered it important that the definition be further clarified.

90. The Executive Body requested the Implementation Committee to provide clarification of the definition of new stationary sources to it at its twenty-fifth session.

XIV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

91. Mr. R. Ballaman was re-elected Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. Mr. S. Michel was re-elected Chair of the Implementation Committee.

92. Mr. M. Williams was re-elected Chair of the Executive Body. Mr. W. Harnett (United States) and Ms. S. Nurmi (Finland) were re-elected Vice-Chairs. Ms. M. Lešnjak (Slovenia) was elected Vice-Chair. The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Mr. R. Ballaman, Switzerland), the Chair of the Working Group on Effects (Mr. T. Johannessen, Norway), the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body (Mr. J. Schneider, Austria) and the Chair of the Implementation Committee (Mr. S. Michel, Switzerland) were also elected Vice-Chairs. A representative of the European Commission was invited to sit on Bureau meetings as an observer to ensure effective coordination with EC activities on air pollution.

93. The Executive Body expressed its thanks to Mr. A. Jagusiewicz (Poland) for his effective contribution to the work of the Bureau.

XV. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

94. The Executive Body adopted the decisions taken at its twenty-fourth session on 14 December 2006.
