

DECISION 2007/1 (ECE/EB.AIR XXX) CONCERNING THE  
ESTABLISHMENT A TASK FORCE ON REACTIVE NITROGEN

The Executive Body.

Aware that the preamble of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol notes that “measures to reduce the emissions of nitrogen oxides and ammonia should involve consideration of the full biogeochemical nitrogen cycle and, so far as possible, not increase emissions of reactive nitrogen including nitrous oxide which could aggravate other nitrogen-related problems”;

Noting that demands for food and energy create reactive nitrogen compounds, which have led to growing concern on transboundary environmental issues,

Expressing concern that different aspect of the nitrogen cycle are considered separately under different regulatory frameworks,

Recalling the conclusions of the Workshop on “*Air pollution and its relations to climate change and sustainable development*” held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in March 2007, that the intimately linked nature of the nitrogen cycle, and its importance for many transboundary environmental problems, requires development of an integrated approach to nitrogen management to support policy development,

Considering that there are several technical and scientific bodies under the Convention already carrying out work on nitrogen,

Convinced that improved coordination of activities across and outside the Convention would help address the problems of nitrogen under the Convention more effectively,

Understanding that further work focussed on ammonia may also be needed,

1. Establishes a Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen under the leadership of the United Kingdom and The Netherlands, with the long-term goal of influencing strategies across the UNECE to ensure alignment of policies on nitrogen in relation to air, biodiversity, soil, climate change and water;

2. Decides that the Task Force will carry out the tasks specified for it in the workplan adopted annually by the Executive Body and will report thereon to the

Working Group of Strategy and Review but will also keep the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body informed of its activities; the Task Force will produce a full report on the progress to and possibilities for an integral approach to manage reactive nitrogen compounds to the September session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review in time for the twenty-eighth session of the Executive Body in 2010;

3. Also decides that the Task Force will be composed of experts from the Parties to the Convention. Each Party will nominate a focal point to the secretariat. Meetings of the Task Force will be open to designated representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations. The chair(s) are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force;

4. Furthermore decides that the functions of the Task Force will be to:

(a) Plan and conduct, in collaboration with other bodies under the Convention, the technical work necessary to develop a better understanding of the integrated, multi-pollutant nature of reactive nitrogen, particularly in relation to air pollution and its interactions with biodiversity, water quality, soil and climate change, for consideration in the reviews and revisions of protocols to the Convention;

(b) Plan and conduct, in collaboration with other bodies under the Convention, the technical work necessary to estimate the emissions, transport, budgets, fluxes and effects of nitrogen for the use in reviews and revisions of protocols to the Convention and prepare technical reviews thereon for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

(c) Consider, in collaboration with other bodies under the Convention, how developing an integrated approach to nitrogen under the Convention would complement the work of other bodies of the Convention, in particular the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Task Force on Modelling and Mapping, as well as that of other international bodies. The Task Force should make maximum use of such considerations to foster an understanding of, and make best use of, the synergies;

(d) Continue the work of the Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement including updates to Guidance documents, Codes of Good agricultural Practice and improvements to emission inventories and other activities as required.

(e) Carry out such other tasks related to the above work as the Executive Body may assign to it in the annual workplan.

5. Decides that the lead countries will assume the principal responsibility for coordinating the work of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for designating its chair(s), for communications with participating experts, for reporting and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the workplan;

6. Also decides that, at the end of each meeting, the Task Force will approve those parts of its report that constitute the key elements of its deliberations relating to the tasks assigned to it by the Executive Body. The report will be finalized by the Chair(s) in consultation with the secretariat and distributed to the focal points nominated by the Parties to the Convention and to the observers and experts who were present at the meeting;

7. Requests other subsidiary bodies and programme centers under the Convention that are working on nitrogen to participate actively in the work of the Task Force;

8. Urges Parties to the Convention to nominate experts for the Task Force and to inform the secretariat of their names as soon as possible.