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

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Item 10 of the provisional agenda

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

PREPARATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

Note by the secretariat¹

1. This note contains information on the draft questionnaire on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement for the 2008 review, presented in document ECE/EB.AIR/2007/5. The draft questionnaire was prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with an ad hoc group of experts led by the Netherlands, at the request of the Executive Body. At its twenty-fourth session, the Executive Body requested the secretariat to prepare the draft 2008 questionnaire, which should focus 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 (ECE/EB.AIR/89, para. 59 (d)).

¹ This document was submitted late due to resources constraints.

2. The questionnaire is intended to assist Parties in providing information on strategies and policies as required under the protocols to the Convention. It provides a basis for the review of compliance by individual Parties with their obligations under the Protocols for assessing progress towards achieving the objectives of the Protocols, and also allows the exchange and dissemination of information about national experiences in the implementation of the obligations. At its twentieth session, the Executive Body had decided to separate the review process (and questionnaire) into two parts: the first of protocol-related questions for compliance review to be carried out every two years; the second, a general policy review to be undertaken every four years. The 2008 draft questionnaire focuses on Parties' reporting obligations for the protocols currently in force.

3. This document describes the structure and content of the draft questionnaire (section I), provides guidance for filling out the questionnaire (section II), and proposes a time schedule for carrying out the work related to the questionnaire (section III) as well as draft conclusions for the consideration of the Executive Body (section IV).

I. STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE

4. The questionnaire (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/5) covers obligations by Parties under the protocols in force, with the exception of the EMEP² Protocol: the 1985 Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 per cent; the 1988 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes; the 1991 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) or their Transboundary Fluxes; the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions; the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals; and the 1999 Protocol on Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). The 66 questions in the questionnaire may provide, together with emission data and other information, a basis for the Implementation Committee to consider compliance by Parties with their obligations under the protocols.

5. The structure of the 2008 questionnaire is essentially the same as it was in 2006. The questionnaire contains questions related to Protocol obligations: section 1 (question 1) for the 1985 Sulphur Protocol; section 2 (questions 2–6) for the 1988 Nitrogen Oxides Protocol; section 3 (questions 7–12) for the 1991 VOC Protocol; section 4 (questions 13–17) for the 1994 Sulphur Protocol; section 5 (questions 18–31) for the 1998 Protocol on POPs; section 6 (questions

² Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe.

32–38) for the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals; and section 7 (questions 39–66) for the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol.

6. As in 2006, table formats are widely used throughout the 2008 questionnaire to help ensure precision, correctness and comparability of the answers. Drawing on the experience with the in-depth reviews carried out by the Implementation Committee on the basis of the replies for the previous questionnaires, specific improvements have been proposed to this questionnaire. These consist mainly in clarifying some of the questions and streamlining and clarifying the structure of the tables. Sections V and VI include questions, which are not mandatory as the obligations to which they refer have not yet entered into force, but enable Parties to provide information on progress towards implementing these obligations. These questions are marked by an asterisk. In addition, section VII solicits information referring to obligations which have come into effect since the 2006 questionnaire.

II. GUIDANCE FOR FILLING OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

7. The questionnaire will be made available on the Internet for Parties to fill in online. If this is not possible, the secretariat can also provide the questionnaire by e-mail or in hard copy.

8. The questionnaire makes reference to specific articles and annexes to the Protocols. The full text of the Convention and its Protocols can be found at:

http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/status/lrtap_s.htm.

9. Parties are encouraged to keep replies brief and to the point, bearing in mind that the secretariat will summarize them for the Implementation Committee and the Executive Body. Where reference is made to specific articles of a Protocol, a link to the protocol's text is provided to facilitate Parties' responses.

10. When filling out the questionnaire, Parties are encouraged to consult the 2006 Review of Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement (ECE/EB.AIR/93, available at: <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/conv/conclusi.htm>) as well as the replies to the 2006 and 2004 questionnaires (available at: <http://unece.unog.ch/enhs/WebApt/Questionnaire/login.aspx>).

11. The following notes are intended to guide the replies of Parties:

(a) Parties should not refer only to the absence of a given (new) source regulated by a protocol, as this would not sufficiently demonstrate implementation of the protocol's obligations. Instead, Parties should indicate the measures taken to ensure that the obligations would be met should such a source be built or manufactured at a future date;

(b) Parties should provide a full reference to the national implementing legislation, including the title of that legislation and the date on which it entered into force;

(c) Parties should provide details on the limit values etc which are set out in their national implementing legislation. European Union (EU) Member States should refer to their national implementing legislation, not to European Commission (EC) Directives or Decisions. As regards EC Regulations, which do not require national implementing legislation, EU Member States should refer to the relevant parts of the applicable EC Regulation;

(d) Parties may wish to cross-refer their answers to those in other questions, but should make sure that the full scope of their obligations is covered. Questions where cross-referencing may be appropriate are indicated throughout the questionnaire;

(e) When providing information in tables, Parties should use the formats set out in the questionnaire, to ensure consistency of the replies.

III. TIME SCHEDULE

12. The tentative schedule for the work is as follows:

(a) **December 2007:** Approval of the draft questionnaire by the Executive Body at its twenty-third session;

(b) **15 January 2008:** Questionnaire made available on the Convention's website. Parties will be informed, by electronic mail, that the questionnaire is available for use. Instructions will be provided;

(c) **31 March 2008:** Deadline for submission of replies by Parties;

April 2008: Preliminary information on replies presented to the Implementation Committee at its seventeenth meeting. Requests sent to Parties for clarification of replies or additional material, if necessary;

(d) **May–July 2006:** Preparation of draft review document for submission to the Executive Body.

IV. DRAFT CONCLUSIONS

The Executive Body is invited to:

- (a) Approve the 2008 draft questionnaire, and request the secretariat to make it available on the Convention's website;
- (b) Decide that the questionnaire will represent the uniform reporting framework referred to in: article 8, paragraph 2, of the 1988 Nitrogen Oxides Protocol; article 8, paragraph 4, of the 1991 VOC Protocol; article 5, paragraph 1 of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol; article 9, paragraph 2 of the 1998 Protocol on POPs; article 7, paragraph 2, of the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals; and article 7, paragraph 2 of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol.
- (c) Request Parties to reply to the questionnaire by the deadline of 31 March 2008, providing clear cross-references, if necessary, and replies that are brief and focused, including providing information in table formats when required;
- (d) Request the secretariat to make replies from Parties available on the Convention's website;
- (e) Request the secretariat to provide the Implementation Committee with information from the replies to enable the Committee to address issues of compliance related to the reporting of strategies and policies;
- (f) Request the Implementation Committee to consider the results of the questionnaire and report to the Executive Body at its twenty-sixth session.
