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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY ON ITS TWENTY-FIFTH
SESSION HELD IN GENEVA FROM 10 TO 13 DECEMBER 2007**

Part One : Proceedings

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¹ Sections I–XIX of this document correspond to agenda items 1–19 of the provisional agenda (ECE/EB.AIR/90).

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Part Two: Decisions adopted by the Executive Body

For practical reasons, Part Two of the present report is issued in a separate addendum (ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1).

Decision

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2007/1 | Establishment of a Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen |
| 2007/2 | 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) |
| 2007/3 | Compliance by Greece with its obligations under the 1988 Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or Their Transboundary Fluxes (ref. 2/02) |
| 2007/4 | 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) |
| 2007/5 | 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) |
| 2007/6 | Compliance by Denmark with its obligations under the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 1/06) |
| 2007/7 | Compliance by Parties other than Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Romania with their obligations to report on strategies and policies |
| 2007/8 | Compliance by Parties other than Liechtenstein with their obligations to report on emissions |
| 2007/9 | Compliance by Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Romania with their obligations to report on strategies and policies |
| 2007/10 | Compliance by Liechtenstein with its obligations to report on emissions |

ANNEXES

- I. Revised mandate of the Bureau of the Executive Body
- II. Amended annex referred to in article 4 of the 1984 Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe
- III. Revised scale of contributions to the Trust Fund for core activities not covered by the 1984 Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe, referred to in para. 5 of decision 2002/1

- IV. Decided contributions to the Trust Fund for core activities not covered by the 1984 Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe for 2008 (based on revised decision 2002/1 and the agreed budget)

Part Three: 2008 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

For practical reasons, Part Three of the present report is issued in a separate addendum (ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.2).

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, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the European Community.
3. The following States not party to the Convention were represented: Angola, Egypt, Iraq, Japan and Syrian Arab Republic. The Organization of the Islamic Conference was also represented.
4. Representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) regional offices for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean attended, as did the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the World Federation of United Nations Associations. The European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) were also represented.
5. The Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East (MSC-East) and the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM) of EMEP² were represented.
6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended: the European Association of Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers (Euromot), the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations (EFCA), the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA), the Union of the Electricity Industry (EURELECTRIC) and the World Chlorine Council (WCC).
7. The Executive Body also welcomed the attendance of representatives of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum and the Royal Society (United Kingdom).
8. Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom) chaired the meeting.

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

9. Mr. Kaj Barlund, Director, UNECE Environment, Housing and Land Management Division, addressed the meeting, noting the challenges facing the Convention, including the review and revision of its protocols, the implementation of capacity-building for countries with economies in transition, and the importance of outreach to other regions. He also noted the continued expansion of activities and the need to ensure that the UNECE secretariat could provide the required support.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

10. The Executive Body expressed its displeasure with the late availability of official documents for its session. It recognized that its secretariat had submitted documents for translation in good time, but delays in translation and printing had resulted in unacceptable release dates. It invited its secretariat to explore the reasons for the delays, to seek assurances that the problems would be addressed for its future meetings, and to inform Heads of delegation accordingly.

11. The agenda (ECE/EB.AIR/90) was adopted.

II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

12. The Chair noted that, due to the new procedures for adopting only the decisions taken by the Executive Body at the end of its session, the Executive Body needed to adopt the report of its twenty-fourth session.

13. The secretariat noted an amendment required to the report. In paragraph 66 of the report, the decision referred to should be decision 2006/11.

14. The Executive Body adopted the report of its twenty-fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/89) as amended, and invited the secretariat to issue a corrigendum of the amendments.

III. ACCREDITATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

15. The secretariat informed the Executive Body that only one organization had applied for accreditation, EFCA. The Bureau had discussed the application in the light of the information available and had agreed it was a suitable candidate for consideration.

16. The Executive Body agreed the accreditation of EFCA, whilst also agreeing that decision 2007/11 should remain provisional for a further year.

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

17. The secretariat noted that the sixty-second session of the Commission (E/2007/37-E/ECE/1448), held in 2007, had marked its sixtieth anniversary. The secretariat also noted that the fourteenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (ECE/CEP/144) had been held in May 2007. It also drew particular attention to the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” held in Belgrade from 10 to 12 October 2007, where ministers had discussed the implementation of the UNECE environmental conventions and protocols on the basis of a paper prepared by the secretariat (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/12). Ministers had stressed the importance of capacity-building and noted the value of outreach to other regions.

18. The Executive Body took note of the information presented.

V. PROPOSAL FROM LITHUANIA TO ADJUST ANNEX II TO THE 1994 OSLO PROTOCOL

19. The secretariat noted the receipt of the proposed adjustment from Lithuania that would enable the country to accede to the 1994 Oslo Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (1994 Sulphur Protocol). The secretariat had circulated it to Heads of delegation as required by article 11 to the Protocol.

20. The Executive Body agreed to adjust the 1994 Sulphur Protocol as requested by Lithuania, and invited the secretariat to notify the United Nations Depository accordingly.

VI. PROGRESS IN CORE ACTIVITIES

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

21. Mr. J. Schneider (Austria), Chair of the EMEP Steering Body, reported on EMEP activities, including the results of the Steering Body’s thirty-first session, noting the items reported at that session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/2). He drew attention to the work on extending the modelling domain of EMEP to include, as a first step, all Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) countries, and the global domain as a second step. The models of MSC-East and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West (MSC-West) had been reviewed and the centres were implementing the recommendations made. The models generally underestimated concentrations compared to observations, possibly due to the incompleteness and uncertainties in the input emissions data. This was particularly true for persistent organic pollutants (POPs), heavy metals and particulate matter (PM).

22. Mr. Schneider drew attention to efforts to implement the EMEP Monitoring Strategy, with a particular focus on EECCA countries, as well as plans for its revision. He also pointed out that the use of the GAINS instead of the RAINS integrated assessment model was very important for assessing linkages between climate change and air pollution. The Steering Body had also agreed that current PM modelling, despite its limitations and uncertainties, could be used in integrated assessment modelling to design cost-effective strategies to reduce exposure to PM.

23. Mr. Schneider presented the proposal of the EMEP Steering Body for reorganizing the emissions work under the Convention, drawing attention to the offer by Austria to host the emissions database at its centre in Vienna (Umweltbundesamt Wien). The Steering Body had recommended acceptance of the offer. Mr. Schneider noted methods and procedures for emission inventory reviews, including the new stage 3 reviews.

24. The delegation of the Netherlands announced that it would undertake work on updating the chapter on POPs of the *Atmospheric Emissions Inventory Guidebook*. It also raised the issue of the voluntary nature of proposed reviewers for the stage 3 in-depth reviews, and suggested that other mechanisms be sought, such as selecting reviewers on a rotational basis.

25. Mr. Schneider noted that France had taken over from the United Kingdom as lead country of the EMEP Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and expressed his appreciation to Mr. R. Derwent for his valuable contribution as its Co-Chair.

26. Mr. Schneider presented a communication to the Convention from the secretariat of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO), inviting it to become a participating organization. He noted the recommendation of the EMEP Steering Body to accept the invitation.

27. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the thirty-first session of the EMEP Steering Body (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/2);

(b) Took note of the contributions of the EMEP centres and task forces to the review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol);

(c) Noted the progress made in the modelling and monitoring of heavy metals, POPs and PM, and invited Parties to take further steps towards improving their emission inventories of these substances;

(d) Welcomed the progress made in the national implementation of the EMEP monitoring strategy, including its extension to the EECCA countries, and urged Parties to make efforts toward its full implementation by 2009;

(e) Took note of the progress made in integrated assessment modelling, and urged non-European Union (EU) Parties in the EMEP domain to provide up-to-date validated national information for use in the development of emission control scenarios;

(f) Welcomed the proposal for the reorganization of the work on emissions under the Convention and accepted the offer of Austria to host a new centre on emissions at Umweltbundesamt Wien;

(g) Welcomed progress in updating the *EMEP/CORINAIR Emission Inventory Guidebook*, in particular the chapter on PM and emissions from cars and road transport;

(h) Took note of the interim 2007 assessment report by the Task Force on the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution;

(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 was partially funded by the Trust Fund for core activities not covered by the 1984 Geneva Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP Protocol); approved the increase of the total budget of CIAM for 2008 to US\$ 395,000; agreed to keeping the provisional budgets for 2009 and 2010 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) Accepted the invitation of GEO to become an official participating organization;

(m) Approved methods and procedures for the emission inventory reviews, including the stage 3 in-depth reviews, and encouraged Parties to nominate experts for the roster of review experts and to volunteer for stage 3 reviews in 2008;

(n) Invited Parties to the Convention to review their nominations of their designated emission experts and provide the secretariat with up-to-date contact information.

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

28. 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-sixth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/2). He drew attention to positive effects of the emission reductions under the Gothenburg Protocol that had decreased the risks for adverse impacts on ecosystems, material and human health. However, the emissions reductions were not considered sufficient, as ecosystems would recover slowly, and many risks still prevailed, inter alia, for terrestrial eutrophication and human health.

29. Mr. Johannessen further noted that results from current work and indicators had been made available by the Working Group to the European Commission (EC) for possible support to assess the effectiveness of its National Emission Ceilings directive in future. The Executive Body took note of the benefits of sharing the existing infrastructure, and recommended keeping effects assessment and work on indicators firmly linked together.

30. The Netherlands welcomed the progress reported and noted the wish to have the activities of the Working Group include nature protection areas. Indicators further describing the degree and extent of impacts would help in conveying information on effects to decision makers.

31. The Executive Body agreed to encourage the Working Group to the EC to increase its work on quantifying effects indicators, in particular for biodiversity. These should also be linked to the integrated assessment modelling activities.

32. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/2);

(b) Noted the further progress in developing the effects-oriented activities and the important results achieved by the International Cooperative Programmes (ICPs) and the Task Force on Health in implementing the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/3);

(c) Expressed appreciation for the document on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol prepared by the Working Group (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/14);

- (d) Invited the Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE) to make a call for European critical and target loads data as preparation for use in a possible revision of the Gothenburg Protocol;
- (e) Noted with satisfaction the continued progress achieved in the application of dynamic modelling (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/13);
- (f) 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;
- (g) 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;
- (h) Reiterated its invitation to Parties to nominate national focal centres for those effects-oriented activities/programmes in which they do not yet actively participate;
- (i) 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;
- (j) Took note of the updated 2008 workplan for the further development of the effects-oriented activities (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/4/Rev.1);
- (k) Noted document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/5, as amended, on the financing of the effects-oriented activities;
- (l) Noted with satisfaction the work accomplished by ICPs and the Task Force on Health and partially funded by the Trust Fund (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2007/5);
- (m) Noted the need for an improved approach to securing sufficient and stable funding for effects-oriented and integrated assessment modelling activities, and for considering further action to implement its decision 2002/1 to secure long-term funding for the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol;

(n) Invited the Working Group on Effects to consider further quantification of policy-relevant effects indicators such as biodiversity change, and to link them to the integrated modelling work.

VII. REVIEW AND REVISION OF PROTOCOLS AND OTHER STRATEGY ACTIVITIES

A. Persistent organic pollutants

33. The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), reported on the discussions and decisions of that Working Group at its fortieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88). He drew attention to the report of the sixth meeting of the Task Force on POPs (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/14), which outlined management options for the seven “new” substances accepted as POPs³ by Parties to the 1998 Aarhus Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs) as well as options for their possible inclusion in the annexes to the Protocol. The Working Group had recommended starting negotiations: (a) to reassess the substance-related provisions currently covered by the Protocol, including possible revisions of those on best available techniques (BAT) and emission limit values (ELVs); (b) to include new substances in annexes I to III; and (c) to decide on the proposed management options for these substances.

34. Mr. J. Sliggers (the Netherlands), Co-Chair of the Task Force on POPs, reported that the Task Force had completed its technical work preparing for the negotiations and had no need to meet in 2008.

35. In the ensuing discussions, Canada noted that any working document to be prepared for the Working Group, for providing a basis for the negotiations, should build on official documents, including: the effectiveness and sufficiency review and proposals on the management options by the Task Force on POPs, as well as options for the expedited amendment procedure for the annexes as presented by the ad hoc group of legal experts. The United States stressed furthermore that, in accordance with article 14 of the Protocol on POPs, for any amendment to the Protocol and to its annexes I, IV, VI and VIII to be valid, it should be proposed by a Party and circulated for acceptance to the other Parties at least 90 days in advance of the Executive Body session at which they are to be discussed.

36. The Executive Body:

(a) Welcomed the work of the Task Force on POPs in carrying out technical reviews and in providing management options for the seven new substances accepted as POPs by the

³ Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD), octabromodiphenyl ether (OctaBDE), pentachlorobenzene (PeCB), pentabromodiphenyl ether (PentaBDE), perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS), polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCN), and short-chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCP).

Parties to the Protocol on POPs at the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Executive Body;

(b) Took note of the report of the Task Force on POPs (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/14), and thanked the experts, reviewers and lead countries for their contributions to the work;

(c) Took note of the report on options for an expedited amendment procedure (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/5);

(d) Mandated the Working Group on Strategies and Review to negotiate draft amendments to the Protocol on POPs for presentation to the twenty-sixth session of the Executive Body in 2008 that covered:

(i) Scheduled reassessment for the substance-related provisions as well as the potential revisions to the provisions of the Protocol on POPs related to BAT and ELVs;

(ii) Inclusion of the seven new substances in the Protocol annexes;

(iii) An expedited procedure regarding amendments of the annexes.

(e) Invited the secretariat, in collaboration with the Chair of the Working Group of Strategies and Review and the Co-Chairs of the Task Force on POPs, to produce a draft working document on options for revising the Protocol on POPs for consideration by the Working Group at its forty-first session. The document should be based, inter alia, on the effectiveness and sufficiency review (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2004/1 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2005/1) as well as on documents ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/14 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/5 (referred to in paras. (b) and (c) above).

B. Heavy metals

37. Mr. Ballaman reported on the discussions and decisions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fortieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88) on potential options for further reducing the emissions of heavy metals listed in annex I to the 1998 Aarhus Protocol on Heavy Metals (Protocol on Heavy Metals); the options had been identified by the Task Force on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/15) following the completion of the review on sufficiency and effectiveness in 2006. Mr. Ballaman drew attention to the elaboration of the Task Force workplan by the Working Group with regards to determining the next steps. He

emphasized the need for better information and capacity-building to facilitate the efforts of a number of the Parties to the Convention in the EECCA region to ratify the Protocol, and noted the plans to organize workshops in Armenia in 2008 and possibly in Belarus in 2009.

38. North American delegations noted the good progress being made with emission reductions of cadmium and lead and the work being carried out by UNEP to address mercury at a global level. They stressed that the focus of further work on heavy metals under the Convention should be on increasing the number of ratifications of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, and noted that any potential revision of the Protocol was likely to hinder such efforts.

39. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Task Force on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/15);

(b) Noted its appreciation of the outgoing Chair of the Task Force on Heavy Metals, Mr. Dieter Jost, and thanked him for his important contributions to the work of the Convention;

(c) Welcomed the offer of Germany to continue as lead country of the Task Force on Heavy Metals, and noted Germany's nomination of Ms. Katja Kraus as its new Chair;

(d) Highlighted that, in line with article 10, paragraph 4, of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Parties shall need to, based on the conclusion of the review on sufficiency and effectiveness completed in 2006 and subsequent work, develop a workplan on further steps to reduce emissions into the atmosphere of the heavy metals listed in annex I to the Protocol;

(e) Stressed the need for improved emission data on heavy metals;

(f) Welcomed the proposal of the Task Force on Heavy Metals to organize a workshop for the EECCA region to promote ratification of the Protocol on Heavy Metals and report on its results at the forty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, and invited the Task Force to consider the possibility of holding a further workshop in Belarus in 2009; invited the secretariat to send out a questionnaire in advance of the workshop to collect information on the difficulties experienced by countries trying to ratify the Protocol; and invited countries to provide this information;

(g) Understanding that there was no mandate to negotiate revision of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, invited the Task Force on Heavy Metals to:

- (i) Consider, from a technical point of view, options for updating BAT in line with state-of-the-art technologies for the reduction of emissions from heavy metals, and to include adequate flexibility in management options, in particular with a view to increasing ratifications;
- (ii) Identify potential barriers from a technical point of view in annex IV, with the view to increasing ratifications;
- (iii) Consider, from a technical point of view, potential implications for the other annexes of the options put forward in accordance with (i) and (ii) above, taking account of comments received, in particular from those Parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified the Protocol;
- (iv) In considering items (i) to (iii), explore the scope of options by putting forward the elements of options rather than by revising specific texts in the annexes.
- (v) Hold its next meeting on 4 to 6 June 2008 in London;
- (vi) Report its findings to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its forty-second session in September 2008.

C. The Gothenburg workshop

40. The delegation of Sweden provided information on the “Saltsjöbaden III” workshop, “Air pollution and its relation to climate change and sustainable development – linking immediate needs with long-term challenges”, held in Gothenburg, Sweden from 12 to 14 March 2007. The Swedish delegation noted in particular the conclusions and recommendations made (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/9), and informed the Executive Body on plans to publish the proceedings and results.

41. The Executive Body noted the results of the workshop and agreed to consider the workshop recommendations in its future workplans.

D. Exchange of information, communication and the Action Plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

42. Mr. Ballaman introduced the revised Action Plan for EECCA (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17), noting that it reflected the recommendations of the “Saltsjöbaden III” workshop held in Gothenburg in March (see section C above). He appealed to the secretariat

to complete the guidelines for implementation of the three most recent protocols and urged Parties to take initiatives to organize training workshops.

43. The secretariat provided information on the finalization of the UNECE CAPACT⁴ project in Central Asia, drawing attention to its achievements. Workshops were initially targeted at Central Asian States, but interest from other EECCA countries and additional funding provided by some Parties had enabled extension of the project to experts from all EECCA countries. A network of experts had been successfully developed as a result. Kazakhstan had developed a national action plan and upgraded a monitoring station with help and support from the EMEP Chemical Coordinating Centre. The secretariat stressed the need for further capacity-building for air quality management and for developing monitoring. While networking and participation were improving, there was a need to develop these further and build upon the CAPACT results.

44. The delegation of Kazakhstan provided its experience of the implementation of the project from a national perspective and described the development of its national plan for accession to the three most recent protocols. Kazakhstan also stressed that the project would be used to develop a new air quality management programme starting in 2009. It thanked UNECE and Norway for the support provided to implement the CAPACT project.

45. The secretariat noted that it had sent, at the request of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, a short questionnaire to EECCA and South-East European (SEE) countries on problems encountered in the ratification of the three latest protocols. Preliminary results suggested that a later date for implementing obligations for existing installations might help accelerate accession to the protocols. Major difficulties with applying limit values for new and existing stationary sources suggested the need for financial support and technical assistance as well as the application of BAT. The secretariat invited those countries that had not yet responded to the questionnaire to do so as early as possible.

46. The secretariat indicated it had finalized documentation for a project to support implementation of the Convention in Moldova, in particular of the Gothenburg Protocol, which was funded by the Czech Republic. The project would enter its implementation phase at the beginning of 2008.

47. The secretariat also drew attention to the finalization of a memorandum of understanding with the Netherlands, which will provide €600,000 for a three-year project to help five SEE countries ratify recent protocols.

⁴ Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia.

48. The secretariat informed the meeting about progress with the publication and translation of the three implementation guides for the three latest protocols. It stressed the need for additional secretariat resources to support the work in EECCA countries and invited co-financing from other Parties. The delegation of the Netherlands stressed that if the revised action plan were adopted, there would be a need to provide adequate financial resources for its implementation, and appealed to Parties to contribute to the Trust Fund.

49. The delegation of Sweden informed that it was holding bilateral discussions with the Russian Federation to strengthen involvement with the work of the Convention. One of its aims was to see how it could help the Russian Federation validate the data used in the GAINS model.

50. The delegation of Norway informed that, through the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), it had successfully helped establish monitoring stations in three EECCA countries so far. Norway intended to continue to support these activities.

51. The Executive Body:

(a) Adopted the revised EECCA Action Plan (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17) that aimed to address more specifically the needs of countries with economies in transition;

(b) Welcomed the steps being taken towards implementing the Action Plan, stressed that more still needed to be done on some items listed in the plan, urged all Parties and Convention bodies to address the issues as a matter of priority, and invited the Working Group on Strategies and Review to report on progress at its next session;

(c) Took note of the finalization of the CAPACT project, welcomed the efforts being made by Kazakhstan as a result of the project, and urged Central Asian States, and Kazakhstan in particular, to pursue as quickly as possible the goal of accession to the Convention and its protocols to ensure that political momentum was sustained;

(d) Urged the secretariat to complete the translation of the implementation guides for the three most recent protocols into Russian and to publish the guides as soon as possible;

(e) Welcomed the financial contributions being made by some Parties to contribute to the work under the EECCA action plan and urged others to investigate ways to secure funds for future activities including organization of workshops and seminars, development of national plans, participation in meetings and the work of the secretariat.

VIII. REVIEW OF THE 1999 GOTHENBURG PROTOCOL

52. The Chair noted the work done in preparing for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol and stressed the importance of using it for deciding upon any further action. He noted document ECE/EB.AIR/2007/10, a compilation from the inputs from most of the Convention's bodies, that outlined the basis for the review.

53. Mr Ballaman thanked the Working Group on Effects, EMEP and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling for their reports and drew attention to draft conclusions listed in ECE/EB.AIR/2007/10. He informed the Executive Body that the Working Group on Strategies and Review had agreed with document ECE/EB.AIR/2007/10, had requested its submission to the Executive Body and had noted preparations for the review were completed (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88, paras. 23 (b) and (c)). He further noted that the Working Group had recommended it commence negotiations on further obligations to reduce emissions and present the outcome to the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in 2009. He reminded the Executive Body of the need to ensure that countries with economies in transition were able to accede to any new or revised instrument and drew attention to a list of options proposed by the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling.

54. Mr. Johannessen introduced the report prepared by the Working Group on Effects for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/13). He noted that the Protocol had been effective and that some recovery from air pollution had been observed; however, emission reductions were insufficient to prevent effects and further measures were needed to meet the Protocol's ultimate objectives. The Working Group had endorsed document ECE/EB.AIR/2007/10.

55. Mr. Schneider noted that much EMEP work had been to support the work on review of the Gothenburg Protocol. Model development and peer reviews, the monitoring strategy, hemispheric transport and increased emphasis on emission reporting had all strengthened the work of EMEP and improved its position to contribute to any further action. The EMEP Steering Body had endorsed document ECE/EB.AIR/2007/10.

56. Mr. A. Zuber (European Community), Co-Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, drew attention to the interim report of the Task Force which had been prepared for review of the Gothenburg Protocol. The summary report which was submitted to the Steering Body of EMEP was now being published; example copies had been made available to delegations. Mr. Zuber stressed the importance of hemispheric transport of ozone and its precursors as well as PM, and noted the progress made by the Task Force in quantifying very

long-range transport. The Task Force would prepare its final report for submission to the Executive Body in 2009.

57. Mr. D. Stevenson, representing the Royal Society (United Kingdom), described the activities of the Royal Society's working group on ground-level ozone in the twenty-first century. The scope of the study was to examine changes expected in ozone concentrations and the resulting impacts on human health and the environment. The work was now being completed and an emerging findings document had been released; this had been made available to delegations. He noted the continuing importance of ozone as a pollutant, highlighting the premature deaths resulting from current and future ozone concentrations. He also indicated that by 2030 ozone could present as great a threat to food security as climate change. International collaboration was essential to address such problems. He informed the Executive Body that the full report of the study would be released soon, following its approval by the Royal Society.

58. Mr. M. Amann (CIAM) noted the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling had focused its recent work on its *Review of the Gothenburg Protocol*, published as a CIAM report. There had been many methodological improvements in many aspects of the integrated assessment work, including attempts to include structural and behavioural changes in the modelling. Concerns expressed by Eastern countries had also been taken into account.

59. The Executive Body took note of the presentations and:

(a) Noted deposition of acidifying substances in Europe had declined since the 1980s, with positive effects on the chemical composition of soils and lakes. Nitrogen deposition remained a widespread problem for European ecosystems. Despite reductions in precursor emissions, no clear downward trend in the past 10 years in ozone indicators for human health and ecosystems could be detected in Europe;

(b) Agreed that to reach the ultimate goal of the Gothenburg Protocol according to article 2, the protection of ecosystems and human health, further measures would be needed as indicated by the review;

(c) Recognized the achievements of the Gothenburg Protocol and the effective measures Parties to the Protocol had taken towards their short- and long-term goals, but noted the difficulties highlighted in the current review and agreed that the latest scientific findings and the causes of the unsatisfactory state of signature and ratification should be considered and addressed. A revision of the current Protocol or even possibly the negotiation of a new protocol needed to be considered.

- (d) Decided that, building upon the achievements of the Gothenburg Protocol, any revision or new protocol should consider setting new environmental targets for the current decade or longer (e.g. 2020), with the aim of ensuring further progress;
- (e) Also decided that to enable a cost-effective outcome, any revision or new protocol should take into account new scientific knowledge about primary PM and PM precursors, the hemispheric transport of air pollution, and the potential synergies and trade-offs to climate change and the nitrogen cycle;
- (f) Agreed that increased emissions from some sources and sectors, the importance of which were not effectively addressed by the current Gothenburg Protocol, should be recognized (e.g. shipping emissions);
- (g) Also agreed that, to ensure adequate accounting of synergies and trade-offs with climate change, new analysis tools such as models specific to the geographic region or regional circumstances should be developed as needed. For example, for the geographic scope of EMEP, the possibility of setting additional non-binding aspirational goals for the pollutants covered by the Protocol should also be investigated;
- (h) Further agreed that any revision or new protocol should consider building more flexibility into some of the current and new annexes and obligations, e.g. with respect to timescales for the implementation of obligations;
- (i) Expressed satisfaction with the contributions made by its subsidiary bodies and centres in the work for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, and noted its appreciation of the reports provided by its subsidiary bodies, in particular by the Working Group on Effects, the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution;
- (j) Welcomed the emerging findings of a report by the Royal Society on ground-level ozone in the twenty-first century, and took note of the results presented;
- (k) Taking note of the above, decided that the first review of the Gothenburg Protocol had been completed.

60. Mr. Ballaman noted that the Working Group on Strategies and Review had approved the revised guidance document on ammonia prepared by the Expert Group on Ammonia Abatement (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/13). The Working Group had agreed to submit it to the Executive Body for adoption as a revision to chapter V of the guidance document to the Gothenburg Protocol (EB.AIR/1999/2).

61. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands presented proposals to lead a task force on reactive nitrogen. They stressed the need for a more integrated approach to understand and control emissions of nitrogen. Other delegates noted the importance of ensuring effective links with other relevant bodies under the Convention and of not forgetting the further work that was required on ammonia abatement.

62. Mr. Ballaman explained that the Expert Group on PM had completed its work in time for the review of the Protocol. However, there still remained a need for deciding how PM should best be dealt with under the Convention.

63. After concluding the first review of the Gothenburg Protocol, the Executive Body:

(a) Decided, on the basis of the conclusions of the review and in accordance with the article 3, paragraph 12, to the Protocol, to mandate the Working Group on Strategies and Review to commence, in 2008, negotiations on further obligations to reduce emissions, with the aim of presenting the outcome of this work to the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in December 2009; sufficient time should be allowed to take account of ongoing discussions under relevant political processes;

(b) Noted that amendments to the Protocol needed to be in accordance with article 13 of the Protocol;

(c) Recommended that work should, inter alia:

(i) Set clear environmental targets;

(ii) Take into account modelled optimized scenarios covering the whole geographic scope of EMEP without excluding the development of differentiated approaches for different UNECE subregions;

(iii) Take into account relevant ongoing discussion under other political processes;

(iv) Consider including more flexibility in the annexes;

(v) Explore the possibility for an expedited procedure to amend annexes;

(d) Expressed its appreciation of the work of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling and CIAM; acknowledged the uncertainties in using best available information for emission projections of non-EU Parties; and urged Parties to ensure the submission of all necessary data on energy and emissions projections data for integrated assessment modelling work by the official date for data submission (15 February);

(e) Recognized that Parties should, according to article 3, paragraph 7, of the Protocol, undertake work on limit values for the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) content in products, and agreed to address this issue in any negotiations on further obligations to reduce emissions;

(f) Adopted the updated Guidance Document on Control Techniques for Prevention and Abating Emissions of Ammonia (EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/13) as a revision of chapter V of the guidance document to the Gothenburg Protocol (EB.AIR/1999/2), and invited the secretariat to update the text on the Convention website;

(g) Took note of the work of the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues related to ELVs for boilers and process heaters and for new heavy-duty vehicles, and recognized that Parties might use this to evaluate the ELVs with a view to amending annexes IV, V and VIII of the Gothenburg Protocol as required by article 3, paragraph 4, of the Protocol.

64. In considering its future workplan for possible revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, the Executive Body:

(a) Invited the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues to initiate work for a possible revision of the Gothenburg Protocol and its annexes, including through revising the guidance documents on sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and VOCs;

(b) Recognized the importance of developing work on emerging technologies and noted the proposal for the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues, in collaboration with national experts and CIAM, to clarify priorities in relation to biofuels, biomass use, carbon capture and sequestration, and hydrogen, including life-cycle analysis, and to specify work elements for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its forty-first session;

(c) Expressed its appreciation of the work of the Expert Group on Particulate Matter, took note of the Expert Group's report (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/18) and the conclusions drawn and agreed to take into account its conclusions and recommendations in the future discussions on PM;

(d) Recognized that secondary PM was addressed in the Gothenburg Protocol and primary PM was partially addressed in the Protocol on Heavy Metals;

(e) Invited the lead countries of the Expert Group on PM, Germany and the United Kingdom, to explore from a policy perspective options for addressing PM under the Convention, to propose options that could be further explored by the Expert Group on PM, and to report to the forty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

(f) Welcomed the proposal from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands to lead a task force on reactive nitrogen and agreed to establish the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen according to decision 2007/1;

(g) Invited the secretariat to prepare a draft plan for submission to the fortieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on all work that might be associated with future negotiations.

IX. COMPLIANCE WITH PROTOCOL OBLIGATIONS

65. In the absence of the Chairman of the Implementation Committee, Mr. S. Michel (Switzerland), Mr. P. Meulepas (Belgium) and Mr. C. Lindemann (Germany) introduced its tenth report (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/3) on compliance by Parties with their protocol obligations, including the results of the Committee's nineteenth and twentieth meetings. Mr. Lindemann drew attention to the report's recommendations, in particular those which proposed decisions concerning compliance by two Parties (Norway and Spain) with respect to 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 respect to their obligations under the 1988 Protocol Concerning the Control of Nitrogen Oxides or Their Transboundary Fluxes (Protocol on NO_x); and by one Party (Denmark) with respect to its obligations under the 1998 Protocol on POPs.

66. Mr. Lindemann further conveyed the Implementation Committee's concerns with regard to cases of long-lasting non-compliance, and the sometimes insufficient attention given to this matter by the Parties concerned and their lack of cooperation with the Committee. The Committee felt that its past practice and past Executive Body decisions had not been sufficient to ensure compliance in these countries. The Committee had held a more general discussion about whether other or stronger measures could be useful to support these Parties. It concluded that, before proposing to the Executive Body to decide on specific additional measures in these cases, the question of how to deal with such cases should first be discussed within the Executive Body and some guidance should be given to the Committee on this matter.

67. Mr. Meulepas highlighted the results of the Implementation Committee's annual review of Parties' compliance with reporting obligations and drew attention to the review's recommendations concerning non-compliance by certain Parties (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/3, para. 63). He noted that, unlike in previous years, the Committee had proposed separate decisions on compliance with the obligations to report on emission data and the obligations to report on strategies and policies, naming the Parties in each case. He also drew attention to the two

individual decisions proposed by the Committee in the case of Liechtenstein, which had not reported since 2002.

68. Mr. Meulepas further reported on the results of the Committee's in-depth review of the Gothenburg Protocol. He stressed that, for many Parties, assessment of compliance with one or more of the obligations was not possible due to incomplete information given in the responses to the questionnaire on strategies and policies. He noted that the in-depth review of the Gothenburg Protocol was a most difficult and time-consuming task for the Committee and commended the secretariat's outstanding efforts in supporting the Committee in its work.

69. In accordance with paragraph 7 of decision 2005/6, the delegation of Spain made a comprehensive presentation on its efforts to reduce NO_x and VOCs emissions. It indicated that, in spite of the obvious political commitment, Spain could not expect to achieve compliance with the Protocol on NO_x before 2017 and with the Protocol on VOCs before 2020, even with the application of additional measures.

70. In accordance with paragraph 6 of decision 2005/4, the delegation of Greece made a presentation on its efforts to reduce NO_x emissions. It noted that compliance could be expected towards 2010. The Greek representative asked for the deletion of paragraph 12 (e) of the report of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/3), as he did not agree with the assertion in that paragraph that Greece did not seem to pay sufficient attention to its continued non-compliance with the Protocol on NO_x. He added that Greece had cooperated with the Committee and was making serious efforts to bring itself in compliance with the Protocol on NO_x.

71. 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 2008, the additional information provided.

72. The delegation of Denmark outlined its efforts to reduce emissions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from residential wood burning, drawing attention to the allocation of €2.2 million for such initiatives. Denmark recognized that the results of its efforts could not yet be seen. It also indicated its plans to review all its emission factors and data, and further requested a modification in para. 24 (c) of the Committee's report (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/3) to clarify that the substances in question were PAHs.

73. With reference to paragraph 63 of the Implementation Committee's report, the delegation of Cyprus informed that it had now provided all the missing replies to the questionnaire on strategies and policies related to the Protocol on NO_x, the delegation of the Netherlands informed that it had submitted the missing gridded data for 2005 under the 1994 Sulphur Protocol, and the

delegation of Italy informed that it had provided the missing data for 2005 under the 1985 Helsinki Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 per cent (1984 Sulphur Protocol), the Protocol on NO_x, the Protocol on VOCs, the 1994 Sulphur Protocol and the Protocol on POPs. The Executive Body agreed to amend the proposed decisions accordingly.

74. In the discussion that followed, several delegations expressed their concern about some of the alarmingly long periods of non-compliance: 12 years in the case of Greece and 20 to 21 years in the case of Spain, according to their current plans. The Executive Body agreed that the Implementation Committee should continue its discussions on possible stronger measures in such cases. The delegation of Germany, speaking on behalf of the EU, proposed that three possible further measures to be explored: (a) more publicity of non-compliance cases; (b) inviting the highest political level (e.g. Minister of Foreign Affairs) of the Party concerned to explain the compliance status and plans to come into compliance at a session of the Executive Body; and (c) reporting these cases to the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy to give them more attention in an alternative intergovernmental body. The delegation of Switzerland suggested that the Implementation Committee, in its next report, present two options for further steps, based on current and additional measures, in each case of non-compliance. The delegation of the United States suggested that countries which were in compliance with all their obligations should also be named.

75. The Executive Body took note of the tenth report of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/3), expressing its appreciation to the members of the Committee for their work over the past year. It adopted:

(a) Decision 2007/2 on compliance by Norway with its obligations under the Protocol on VOCs (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1);

(b) Decision 2007/3 on compliance by Greece with its obligations under the Protocol on NO_x (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1);

(c) Decision 2007/4 on compliance by Spain with its obligations under the Protocol on NO_x (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1);

(d) Decision 2007/5 on compliance by Spain with its obligations under the Protocol on VOCs (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1);

(e) Decision 2007/6 on compliance by Denmark with its obligations under the Protocol on POPs (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1);

- (f) Decision 2007/7 on compliance by Parties other than Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Romania with their obligations to report on strategies and policies (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1);
- (g) Decision 2007/8 on compliance by Parties other than Liechtenstein with their obligations to report on emissions (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1);
- (h) Decision 2007/9 on compliance by Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Romania with their obligations to report on strategies and policies (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1);
- (i) Decision 2007/10 on compliance by Liechtenstein with its obligations to report on emissions (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1).

76. Furthermore, the Executive Body:

- (a) Requested the secretariat to communicate these decisions to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Parties in question;
- (b) Expressed satisfaction with the Committee's in-depth review of the Gothenburg Protocol, noting that many Parties were not in compliance with their obligations under certain parts of the Gothenburg Protocol and that some did not report sufficiently well for compliance to be assessed.

77. With the aim of enabling all Parties to move into compliance, the Executive Body encouraged the Implementation Committee to continue its deliberations on possible stronger measures to be for application in cases of long-lasting non-compliance; to build on its current work; to take note of the suggestions made by the EU, Switzerland and the United States; and to report back with proposals to the Executive Body at its twenty-sixth session.

78. With regard to the membership of the Implementation Committee, the Executive Body:

- (a) Noted that Mr. Meulepas (Belgium) and Ms. S. Vidic (Croatia) would remain on the Committee for another year;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation to Mr. V. Keizer (the Netherlands), Mr. Michel (Switzerland), Mr. C. Malikkides (Cyprus) and Mr. D. Langlois (Canada) for their contributions to the work of the Committee;
- (c) Re-elected Mr. H. Hojesky (Austria), Mr. A. Fretheim (Norway) and Mr. Lindemann (Germany) for another term of two years;

(d) Elected Ms. J. Forest (Canada), Ms. C. Hamilton (United Kingdom), Ms. A. Karjalainen (Finland) and Mr. L. Olsson (Sweden) for a term of two years;

(e) Elected Mr. Fretheim as Chair of the Implementation Committee.

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

79. The secretariat presented the publication of: *2006 Review on Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement*, which consisted of the summary report approved by the Executive Body at its twenty-fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/2006/4 and Add.1, Add.1/Corr.1 and Add.2); an executive summary agreed on by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its thirty-ninth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/6 and Corr.1); and figures provided by MSC-West, MSC-East and CCE. The North American figures were based on the 2006 United States/Canada Progress Report. The Executive Body welcomed the publication of the report.

80. The secretariat informed the Executive Body of the draft 2008 questionnaire (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/4 and ECE/EB.AIR/2007/5) on strategies and policies, which it had prepared in consultation with an ad hoc group led by the Netherlands. Mr. Sliggers outlined the main changes made to the 2008 questionnaire with a view to clarifying the questions and improving the replies from countries. The members of the ad hoc expert group had also been invited to test the draft version of the electronic 2008 questionnaire, as well as the instructions for its use, with a view to improving their user-friendliness.

81. The secretariat indicated that it would make the questionnaire available on the Internet during the second half of January 2008. It would send out detailed instructions for use, together with passwords and usernames, and invite the countries to reply by 31 March.

82. The Executive Body:

(a) Approved the draft 2008 questionnaire, and requested the secretariat to make it available on the Convention's website after taking into account the editorial comments made;

(b) Decided that the questionnaire would represent the uniform reporting framework referred to in article 8, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on NO_x; article 8, paragraph 4, of the Protocol on VOCs; article 5, paragraph 1, of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol; article 9, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on POPs; article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Heavy Metals; and article 7, paragraph 2, of the Gothenburg Protocol.

(c) Requested Parties to reply to the questionnaire by the deadline of 31 March 2008, providing clear cross-references, if necessary, and replies that were brief and focused, including providing information in table formats when required;

(d) Requested the secretariat to make replies from Parties available on the Convention's website;

(e) Requested 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) Requested the Implementation Committee to consider the results of the questionnaire and report to the Executive Body at its twenty-sixth session.

XI. GUIDELINES FOR ESTIMATING AND REPORTING EMISSIONS

83. Mr. J. Schneider, reported that the Steering Body of EMEP, at its thirty-first session, had endorsed the technical aspects of the revised *Guidelines for Estimating and Reporting Emissions* and its annexes as revised by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, in collaboration with the European Topic Centre on Air and Climate Change (ETC-ACC) and MSC-West; the Steering Body had recommended their use as a basis of reporting as of 2009. Mr. Ballaman informed the Executive Body about the deliberations of the Working Group of Strategies and Review on the legal standing and the possible strengthening the *Guidelines*. The Working Group had invited its ad hoc group of legal experts to carry out further work to this end, including through drafting related decisions for the Executive Body and through revising the language of the *Guidelines*, and had requested the ad hoc group of legal experts to report to the Working Group at its forty-first session.

84. The delegation of Germany, speaking on behalf of the presidency of the EU, declared its support for the work mandate of the legal experts and for the requirement to use the revised guidelines as the basis for reporting emissions from 2009.

85. The Executive Body:

(a) Agreed that the Steering Body of EMEP had addressed the technical aspects of revising the *Guidelines for Estimating and Reporting Emissions*;

(b) Invited the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue its work to consider how the *Guidelines* might be strengthened as decided at the fortieth session of the

Working Group (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88, para. 52 (c)), and to report its conclusions to the twenty-sixth session of the Executive Body in 2008 in order that the revised *Guidelines* might be adopted at that time.

XII. OPENING THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

86. The Chair drew attention to document ECE/EB.AIR/2007/12 prepared by the Bureau in response to a request of the Executive Body at its twenty-fourth session. In the view of the Bureau, the legal and technical issues of opening the Convention and its protocols were effectively addressed in 2006 and had not changed. In its paper, the Bureau wished to present a broad basis for discussions on how to make the Convention more open and had examined the existing and potential links with other regions. He noted existing efforts through bodies such as the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, through scientific links with other regions. He also noted the importance of attracting participation of non-UNECE countries at Convention meetings and sharing the Convention's experiences.

87. Mr. J. Kuylenstierna, a representative of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, provided information on the activities of the Forum and its support for the Convention's outreach strategy. He noted the importance of the Convention's involvement with the Forum, which was mainly through its secretariat and the Executive Body Bureau, and identified other regional networks and agreements participating in the Forum. He described some of the work of the Forum including an emission inventory manual (based on the *EMEP/Corinair Atmospheric Emission Inventory Guidebook* and United States Environmental Protection Agency methods) and its newsletter. The Forum had organized a side-event and submitted a category 2 paper for the Sixth "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference held in Belgrade entitled "Tackling regional, hemispheric and global air pollution: the potential role of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution". The paper stressed the lack of global developments to tackle air pollution and the value of the Convention's outreach work. It recommended the promotion of global action and cooperation, especially to share the Convention's experiences, as well as to address common issues such as PM, ozone and the linkages between air pollution and climate change. The Forum welcomed further decisions on extending the Convention's outreach activities.

88. Mr. M. Iyngararasan (UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRCAP)) noted the important collaboration between the Convention and Asian networks concerned with air pollution. He noted in particular a recent intergovernmental meeting of the The Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia, a regional network, which had agreed to write to the Convention inviting

further collaboration and joint scientific activities. The letter from the Malé Declaration had specifically identified monitoring and effects on crops as important areas for collaboration. The secretariat noted that the letter had been made available as an informal document and proposed that it be circulated to the appropriate subsidiary bodies, inviting them to consider possibilities for joint activities.

89. Mr. A. Kallala of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) noted the synergies between air pollution and climate change and described the Observatory's network of partners to assist agreements and promote environmental governance. He drew attention to the planned development of the North African network on air pollution and monitoring, noting that monitoring stations were already established in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. He noted the common interests with the Convention in the Mediterranean region as well as possibilities for movement of air pollution between North Africa and Europe, and indicated that the North African network would be pleased to share information with the Convention.

90. Ms. S. Feresu, representing the Air Pollution Information Network for Africa (APINA), outlined the purpose and objectives of APINA and summarized its current activities. A main activity was to build capacity to produce a regional emission inventory. While there was a need for technical support and resources to develop good monitoring capability, it was planned to use models to provide surrogate information. As expertise in modelling was lacking, APINA was looking for possibilities for its experts to be seconded to centres where they could develop the necessary modelling expertise. Ms. Feresu noted APINA work on impacts on crops and materials which used similar methodologies to those employed under the Convention. APINA was especially interested in how the Convention established science-policy dialogue to develop abatement strategies. As of yet, the APINA region had no policy frameworks to address its air pollution problems.

91. Ms. Long Chow Peng, of the Network Centre of the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network for East Asia (EANET), summarized the links already established between EANET and the Convention. At the policy level, the Convention secretariat had participated in intergovernmental meetings for many years sharing the experiences of the Convention. The EMEP CCC had provided valuable assistance in developing the EANET monitoring network and its methodologies. There were also links with some of the Convention's ICPs under the Working Group on Effects and with the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution. The latter was exploring possibilities for holding back-to-back meetings of the Task Force and EANET in 2008.

92. Mr. D. Luna (UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean) outlined the activities that were developing in that region. He stressed the need for support to the region and noted the importance of the Convention's outreach activities.

93. Mr. R. Mills (Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum) summed up the contributions by the Forum's partners. Before thanking the Bureau of the Executive Body for its positive contribution to the Forum, which had been a major factor in progress achieved over the last year, he suggested the following priorities, which all the partners hoped might be appropriately reflected in the further development of the Convention's outreach strategy by the Bureau and the subsidiary bodies:

(a) The formal approach from the Malé Declaration was a significant initiative and it was important for a prompt response to lead to an effective cooperative programme;

(b) There were now enhanced opportunities for joint monitoring programmes with North African countries through the OSS and other bodies. This could be a natural development of the Convention's current programmes;

(c) It would be timely for networks in developing regions to identify specific areas where cooperation with the Convention might be most beneficial to them, as a basis for longer-term cooperative programmes. The forum would be happy to help facilitate this.

94. The Executive Body:

(a) Welcomed the presentations given by the representatives of other regional networks and thanked them for their suggestions for further collaboration;

(b) Took note of the work being done on opening the Convention, as well as the views of the Bureau for continuing these important activities;

(c) Welcomed the activities of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, and requested the Bureau and the secretariat to keep it informed of developments and possibilities for cooperation;

(d) Noted the invitation of the Malé Declaration to collaborate on future work and requested its Bureau and secretariat to reply to the invitation and to inform the bureaux of the main subsidiary bodies as appropriate;

(e) Noted the important activities of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution, and urged its lead Parties to continue to encourage participation from other regions;

(f) Encouraged Convention bodies, in particular programmes, task forces and expert groups, to collaborate with relevant experts and organizations from outside the region to share the Convention's experiences and useful scientific and technical information; to this end, invited the Bureaux of the Working Group on Effects, the Steering Body of EMEP and the Working Group on Strategies and Review to consider this issue with the appropriate task forces, expert groups and programme centres, to review all their current activities linked to outreach and to explore opportunities for including items on outreach in their future workplans;

(g) Noted the usefulness of intern or secondment systems for developing capacity through training junior staff from developing countries, and encouraged Parties to use such mechanisms as part of the Convention's collaboration with other regions;

(h) Took note of the informal "ambassador" system operated by the Bureau, and invited the Bureau to consider further how a list of "ambassadors" for the Convention might be drawn up to identify persons who could present information to other bodies under the auspices of the Executive Body for the Convention;

(i) Recognized the important role of the Bureau and the secretariat in the outreach exercise, and noted the importance of contributions to the Convention's Trust Fund to supporting the secretariat's travel to meetings outside the region;

(j) Agreed that the secretariat should continue to invite participation from non-UNECE countries at sessions of the Executive Body.

XIII. DOCUMENTATION FOR THE CONVENTION

95. The secretariat introduced document ECE/EB.AIR/2008/11, noting the need to review procedures for adopting reports of the Executive Body and its Working Group on Strategies and Review since the trial period agreed at the twenty-third session was coming to an end. It also stressed the importance of publishing the Convention's workplan to provide mandates for many of the official documents. Mandates were now essential to ensure that documents were translated and printed. In addition, the secretariat outlined efforts in UNECE to harmonize official documents, while recognizing that the layout of Geneva documents would change to the "New York style" in the coming year.

96. The Executive Body:

(a) Agreed that adoption of reports by the Executive Body and the Working Group on Strategies and Review at their following sessions and adoption of decisions at the current sessions had provided a more streamlined way of working, and decided to continue this procedure for a further period of two years;

(b) Noted the need for delegations to be informed of proposed amendments to reports of meetings of the Executive Body, and to the extent possible for the reports of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, and requested the secretariat to place proposals for such amendments on the Convention's website at least 90 days before the session adopting the report;

(c) Noted the need to have an official record of the workplan and agreed that its annual workplan be published as a United Nations document following its annual session;

(d) Also noted the importance of recording any changes to the annual workplan, and decided to amend the mandate of its Bureau, as set out in the annex to this report (ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1. annex I), to enable such changes to be recorded;

(e) Recognized the need for mandates for documents and urged all Parties and the secretariat to take the necessary actions to ensure that mandates were clearly spelled out for all official documents required; as a first step for this, the Executive Body agreed to the following standing mandates:

(i) Reports of all major subsidiary bodies to be prepared by the secretariat and submitted to sessions of the Executive Body;

(ii) Workplans of all major subsidiary bodies to be prepared by the secretariat annually and submitted to the Executive Body;

(iii) Finance documents to be prepared, where appropriate, for sessions of the Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies;

(iv) Progress in core activities documents to be prepared for sessions of the Executive Body by the secretariat to facilitate decision-making by the Executive Body on its scientific activities;

(f) Noted the steps being taken in the secretariat to harmonize documentation and requested the secretariat to inform it of any significant changes prior to such changes taking place.

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

97. The secretariat drew attention to a new UNECE inter-divisional initiative on the use of biofuels. At the first interdivisional meeting, the secretariat had voiced the Executive Body's concern about the increased use of wood as a biofuel; without using suitable technology for burning, it had stressed, air pollution could increase.

98. Ms. L. Jalkanen (WMO) reported on that organization's activities, noting that WMO was pleased to continue co-chairing the EMEP Task Force on Measurements and Modelling. Ms. Jalkanen also noted that WMO was pleased to continue collaborating with the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution; in January, WMO had hosted the joint WMO/GEO/Task Force workshop on integrated observations for assessing hemispheric transport. She informed the Executive Body that a new *Strategic Plan for the Global Atmosphere Watch* (GAW), which laid out the long-term objectives, goals and implementation principles for 2008–2009, had been published in summer 2007. This report and other GAW publications, such as the *Greenhouse Gas Bulletin*, were available on the GAW website.

99. Ms. A. Mourelatou (EEA) noted EEA work in maintaining atmospheric emissions data for the EU, and welcomed the new Austrian centre for emission data that would operate under the Convention. She noted the new EEA five-year strategy and drew attention to the leading role of EEA in the updating of the *EMEP/Corinair Atmospheric Emissions Inventory Guidebook*. EEA had prepared its state of the environment report *Europe's Environment – the fourth assessment* for the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" held in Belgrade in October 2007. Ms Mourelatou noted other reports of EEA, which were, or would be, available through the EEA website.

100. Mr. Johannessen, on behalf of AMAP, provided a brief update on the activities of AMAP relevant to the Convention. He noted review articles on POPs and an updated AMAP assessment of mercury. He stressed the importance of collaboration between AMAP and the Convention in, for example, hemispheric transport of air pollution and synergies between air pollution and climate change. AMAP was keen to ensure effective communication of its results to bodies such as the Convention. It had asked whether the information in its Acidification and Arctic Haze assessment was presented usefully for the Convention and if there were steps that AMAP could take in the future to present its results in a more effective manner; the Convention was invited to

respond. AMAP also wished to enquire if the Convention would be interested in exploring a more formal arrangement regarding cooperation on subjects of mutual interest.

101. Mr. Zuber (European Commission) drew attention to work supported by the EC that provided support to the Convention, in particular activities at the global and hemispheric level to support the work of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution.

102. Mr. Iyngararasan provided information on the activities under the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Haze Agreement, the Malé Declaration, EANET and the Atmospheric Brown Cloud (ABC) programme. Only the ASEAN Agreement was a legal instrument. He noted the support of the Malé Declaration to move towards a regional agreement on air pollution control and the action being taken to develop emission inventories, monitoring, impact assessment and awareness-raising. He also drew attention to the major problem of brown clouds in the Asian region and the work being done under the ABC programme to develop observations, assess impacts and raise awareness for mitigation. He identified other regions in the world where brown clouds could be a problem, such as southern Africa and central South America.

103. Ms. Leong Chow Peng drew attention to the activities of EANET, noting there were now 13 East Asian countries participating, each with at least one atmospheric monitoring site. Ecological sites were also being developed. She highlighted the publication of the recent *Periodic Report on the State of Acid Deposition in East Asia*, which used the structure of last major EMEP report by having a regional assessment, national assessments and an executive summary. She noted the discussions taking place on the development of an instrument for EANET. It had not been decided whether this should be legally binding, but EANET had agreed that it should be simple, flexible and open to future development. She also highlighted work on ozone and PM, and drew attention to many collaborative activities with other organizations.

104. The Executive Body thanked the organizations for providing relevant information, requested the secretariat to make the information presented available on the website of the twenty-fifth session and agreed to take it into consideration when discussing its workplan.

XV. 2008 WORKPLAN

105. The secretariat introduced the note describing the workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/6), the draft workplans forwarded by its subsidiary bodies (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/7, ECE/EB.AIR/2007/8 and ECE/EB.AIR/2007/9), and the draft workplan of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/3, annex). It also introduced the provisional list of meetings for 2008.

106. The Executive Body adopted its workplan as amended; it instructed the secretariat to publish the workplan as a post-session document and to post it on the Convention's website.

XVI. FINANCIAL ISSUES

107. The secretariat introduced the note on the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/2) presenting, inter alia, the detailed budget of EMEP for 2008 and its provisional budgets for 2009 and 2010.

108. 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/2007/2, section I), stressing that all but three Parties (Malta, Portugal and Romania) had paid at least part of their contributions for 2007.

109. The secretariat drew attention to the proposed 10 per-cent increase of the EMEP budget for the period 2008–2010 to support the new priorities and increased resource requirements, in particular for the work on emissions data and the work to strengthen the involvement of the EECCA countries. It noted the 2008 schedule of contributions, which were calculated on the basis of the 2007 United Nations scale of assessment and included Montenegro, now a Party to the EMEP Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/2, tables 2 and 3).

110. The delegation of Germany expressed its reservations regarding the increase of the EMEP budget and its contribution for 2008, which, in Germany's view, represented a disproportionate share of the budget. The delegation of France also expressed a reservation with regard to the acceptance of the 10 per-cent increase of the budget.

111. With regard to its arrears, amounting to \$316,194 to be contributed in kind, the delegation of Ukraine informed the Executive Body that it had secured financing for the implementation of the two projects approved earlier by the EMEP Steering Body, and planned to proceed with their full implementation in 2008, to cover these arrears.

112. The Executive Body:

(a) Adopted, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the EMEP Protocol, the revised annex, which included Montenegro, as set out below (see ECE/EB.AIR/91.Add.1, annex II);

(b) Decided on the detailed use of resources in 2008 as set out in table 2 of ECE/EB.AIR/2007/2 and on the scale of mandatory contributions as set out in table 3 (last two columns) of that document;

(c) Took note of the reservations expressed by Germany and France and encouraged them to take steps towards lifting these reservations as soon as possible;

(d) Supported the EMEP Steering Body's call to 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 2008 for carrying out the protocol reviews and revisions, including the work on integrated assessment modelling – could be accomplished as foreseen in the workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2007/2, para. 83 (h));

(e) Requested the EMEP Steering Body, with the assistance of its Bureau, to present the details of the 2009 budget, together with the workplan, for approval by the Executive Body at its twenty-sixth session;

(f) Urged Parties that have not yet done so to pay their 2007 contributions in cash to the Trust Fund and, in 2008, to pay their contributions so that they reach the Trust Fund in the first half of the year;

(g) Invited the secretariat to provide additional information if requested by Parties.

113. The secretariat provided updated information on the status of payments of the contributions under decision 2002/1 in cash and in kind for 2006 and 2007 to the Trust Fund for core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2007/2, section II). It also outlined the requirements for funding these activities for 2007.

114. The delegation of the Netherlands presented views on alternative mechanisms for the distribution of non-earmarked funds to programme centres. The delegations of the United Kingdom, Germany and Finland noted that the small ad hoc group had not been able to convene in full to explore and propose alternative mechanisms, but that some Parties had communicated on this matter during the year.

115. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the contributions made to the Trust Fund for core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol for 2007, welcomed the payments made, but expressed disappointment at the lack of response by many Parties;

- (b) Agreed that the aim of the ad hoc group had been fulfilled and considered that no further work was required;
- (c) Took note of the strong reservation expressed by the Netherlands regarding the current distribution of non-earmarked funds to all programme centres in equal amounts being unfair, but agreed that the existing procedure could be applied for practical reasons;
- (d) Decided that the essential international coordination costs for financing the core activities of the Convention and its protocols, other than those covered by the EMEP Protocol, would be \$2,152,700 in 2008, and would provisionally be \$2,152,700 in 2009 and \$2,152,700 in 2010;
- (e) Revised decision 2002/1 by adding the new Parties to the Convention and adopting the 2007 United Nations scale of assessments for use in calculating the recommended contributions (see ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1, annexes III and IV, respectively);
- (f) Requested the secretariat to inform Parties of the decided contributions to meet the 2008 budget, inviting Parties to make contributions as agreed in decision 2002/1;
- (g) 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;
- (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 funded activities of their national focal centres/points and the active participation of national experts.

116. The secretariat drew attention to section III of ECE/EB.AIR/2007/2 and provided updated information on the finances of project E112 for supporting countries with economies in transition. It noted the final figures for funds received and spent for 2006, stressing that some of the funds received were earmarked for activities that were still ongoing. While no funds had been received for 2007 up to 2 October, some funds had been received from the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland after that date. Further funding was expected under a new project for the Balkans funded by the Netherlands.

117. The secretariat, while recognizing the need for some countries to earmark contributions, stressed that it also welcomed non-earmarked contributions, as these provided the flexibility to fund activities that were poorly supported by earmarked funds. The secretariat also highlighted the need to consider strengthening the secretariat to enable it to support projects and programmes

in the EECCA and SEE regions; this was in line with a recommendation made at the Gothenburg workshop (see section VII.C above), which had suggested that such support might be deployed within the EECCA region.

118. The Executive Body:

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

(b) Approved the list of activities and the proposed budget for project E112 of \$259,900 for 2008 and provisional budgets of \$250,000 for 2008 and 2009;

(c) Noted the recommendations made at the Gothenburg workshop for improved support to EECCA countries and for using MSC-East as a facilitator for implementing the EECCA Action Plan, and invited Parties to provide additional funds to project E112 to provide the required support through staff stationed in the region;

(d) Urged all Parties to make contributions to the Trust Fund, as early as possible in 2006, 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 support the work planned for 2008;

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

119. The secretariat reported on progress in the development of support for secretariat travel. While a small number of Parties had made contributions to the Trust Fund as requested under decision 2006/12, other Parties had provided improved support through advance payment of air tickets and subsistence. A number of Parties had indicated that they might make contributions to the Trust Fund in the future. The secretariat would report on Trust Fund donations and expenditure in 2008.

120. The Executive Body:

(a) Welcomed the efforts being made by some Parties to contribute to the Trust Fund for secretariat travel;

(b) Noted that some lead and host Parties had difficulties paying to the Trust Fund, but welcomed their efforts in devising advanced payment for travel and subsistence allowance;

(c) Urged Parties that had not yet contributed to the voluntary Trust Fund to do so to ensure the effective support of the secretariat at meetings;

(d) Requested the secretariat to invite Parties to make contributions to the Trust Fund and to provide the Executive Body with an annual report on the Trust Fund and the travel of the secretariat.

XVII. OTHER BUSINESS

121. The Executive Body took note that the Convention would be celebrating its thirtieth anniversary in 2009. It invited its Bureau to consider possibilities for celebrating the occasion.

XVIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

122. Mr. Ballaman was re-elected Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. Mr. Fretheim was elected Chair of the Implementation Committee.

123. Mr. Williams was re-elected Chair of the Executive Body. Ms. M. Lešnjak (Slovenia) was re-elected Vice-Chair. Mr. D. Fantozzi (United States) and Mr. M. Rico (France) were elected Vice-Chairs. The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Mr. Ballaman), the Chair of the Working Group on Effects (Mr. Johannessen), the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body (Mr. Schneider) and the Chair of the Implementation Committee (Mr. Fretheim) were also elected Vice-Chairs. A representative of the European Commission was invited to sit on Bureau meetings in 2008 as an observer to ensure effective coordination with EC activities on air pollution.

124. The Executive Body expressed its thanks to Mr. W. Harnett (United States), Mr. Michel and Ms. S. Nurmi (Finland) for their effective contribution to the work of the Bureau.

XIX. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

125. The Executive Body adopted the decisions taken at its twenty-fifth session on 13 December 2007.
