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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

Twenty-sixth session  
Geneva, 15–18 December 2008

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 15 December 2008<sup>1</sup>

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its twenty-fifth session

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<sup>1</sup> There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form available from the Convention's website (<http://www.unece.org/env/registration/lrtap.htm>), and to transmit it to the secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit at the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section's new location at the Pregny gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the Convention's website (<http://www.unece.org/env/registration/lrtap.htm>).

3. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations
4. Matters arising from meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings
5. Progress in core activities
6. Review and revision of protocols and other strategy activities
7. Revision of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants
8. Negotiations on further obligations to reduce emissions following review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol
9. Compliance with protocol obligations
10. Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution
11. Guidelines for Reporting Emission Data under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
12. A long-term strategy for the Convention
13. Air pollution and climate change: developing a framework for integrated co-benefits strategies
14. Activities of UNECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention
15. 2009 workplan for the implementation of the Convention
16. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention
17. Other business
18. Election of officers
19. Adoption of decisions taken at the twenty-sixth session

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

**Tentative timing:** Monday, 15 December, afternoon

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/95 (Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session)

The Executive Body is expected to adopt the agenda for its twenty-sixth session (ECE/EB.AIR/95).

### **Item 2: Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its twenty-fifth session**

**Tentative timing:** Monday, 15 December, afternoon

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/91 and Adds.1 and 2 (Report of the Executive Body on its twenty-fifth session)  
ECE/EB.AIR/2008/5 (Activities of the Bureau)

The secretariat will note its preparation of the report on the twenty-fifth session and will draw attention to amendments to Part Two of the report and to the workplan, as agreed by the Bureau in accordance with its revised mandate. The Executive Body is expected to adopt the report of its twenty-fifth session as amended.

### **Item 3: Accreditation of non-governmental organizations**

**Tentative timing:** Monday, 15 December, afternoon

The Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session agreed that its decision 2006/11 on the accreditation of non-governmental organizations should remain provisional for a further year. It is now expected to decide on whether to amend the decision or confirm its adoption of the original text. In accordance with the decision, the Bureau will make recommendations on each application for accreditation received from such organizations. The Executive Body is expected to decide upon accreditation for each application.

**Item 4: Matters arising from meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings**

**Tentative timing:** Monday, 15 December, afternoon

The secretariat will note that the Commission did not meet in 2008 and that its sixty-third session will be held in April 2009. It will draw attention to the fifteenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy that took place in April 2008 (ECE/CEP/148) and to the special session of the Committee that took place in October 2008, which focused on the reform of the “Environment for Europe” process. The secretariat will report on the timely provision of official documentation for meetings under the Convention. It will also report on the status of the Convention and its protocols, noting accessions and ratifications that have taken place over the past year.

**Item 5: Progress in core activities**

**Tentative timing:** Monday, 15 December, afternoon

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/2008/1 (Progress in core activities)  
ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/2 (Report of the thirty-second session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP))  
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2008/2 (Report of the twenty-seventh session of the Working Group on Effects)  
ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/13 and Corr.1 (Revising the EMEP strategy)  
ECE/EB.AIR/2008/11 (Draft guidelines for the reporting on monitoring and modelling of air pollution effects)

To facilitate discussions under this agenda item, document ECE/EB.AIR/2008/1 contains a summary of the main issues and results and highlights conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Executive Body. The document, which will be presented by the chairs of the relevant subsidiary bodies, is based on the following information:

- (a) The results of the thirty-second session of the Steering Body to EMEP;
- (b) The results of the twenty-seventh session of the Working Group on Effects.

The Executive Body is expected to take note of these reports and of the relevant conclusions and recommendations. It may wish to take further action regarding proposals for revising the strategy

of EMEP (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2008/13) and the draft guidelines for the reporting on the monitoring and modelling of air pollution effects (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2008/16).

**Item 6: Review and revision of protocols and other strategy activities**

**Tentative timing:** Tuesday, 16 December, morning

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/90 and Corr.1 (Report of the forty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review)  
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/92 (Report of the forty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review)  
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/8 and Corr.1 (Options for revising the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants)  
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/9 (Follow-up on the review of the Protocol on Heavy Metals)  
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/11 (Progress in the implementation of the action plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will introduce this agenda item by referring to the discussions and decisions of the Working Group at its forty-first and forty-second sessions. The Executive Body is expected to take note of the reports and to consider the relevant conclusions and recommendations on the following:

- (a) *Persistent organic pollutants.* The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will provide a brief summary of the Working Group's discussions on this topic. Proposals for amending the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants will be discussed under agenda item 7;
- (b) *Heavy metals.* The Executive Body is expected to consider action on any proposals for new substances for addition to the Protocol on Heavy Metals. Following up on discussions at its twenty-fifth session, and taking into account the report of the Task Force on Heavy Metals as well as the discussions and conclusions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, the Executive Body may wish to consider further action in this area of work;
- (c) *1999 Gothenburg Protocol<sup>1</sup>.* Possibilities for revision of this Protocol will be discussed under agenda item 8;

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<sup>1</sup> The 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.

(d) *Exchange of information, communication and the Action Plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.* The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will provide information on progress in work on exchange of information and on the implementation of the Action Plan for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, drawing attention to the progress report discussed by the Working Group. The secretariat will provide information on the finalization of work on the United Nations Development Account-funded project, Capacity Building for Air Quality Management and the Application of Clean Coal Combustion Technologies in Central Asia (CAPACT) ([www.unece.org/ie/capact](http://www.unece.org/ie/capact)). Delegations from countries with economies in transition may wish to highlight their countries' priorities for capacity-building and suggest future action by the Convention's bodies. The Executive Body is expected to discuss the exchange of information and the Action Plan and to agree on any further necessary action;

(e) *The ad hoc group of legal experts.* The Chair of the Working Group of Strategies and Review will draw attention to proposals by that Working Group to establish a more formalized and readily available ad hoc group of legal experts that could address legal questions arising from work under the Convention.

#### **Item 7: Revision of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Tentative timing:** Tuesday, 16 December, morning and afternoon

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/2008/12 - ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/8/Rev.1 (Options for revising the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants)

The secretariat will report on proposals for amending the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants submitted by Parties to the Protocol in accordance with article 14 to the Protocol. The Executive Body, and in particular the Parties to the Protocol, are expected to discuss the proposals and decide upon further action, including possibilities for negotiating amendments to the Protocol and decisions on the addition of substances to the Protocol annexes.

#### **Item 8: Negotiations on further obligations to reduce emissions following review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol**

**Tentative timing:** Tuesday, 16 December, afternoon

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/92 (Report of the forty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review)  
ECE/EB.AIR/2008/13, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/13/Rev.1 (Draft plan for the revision of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol)  
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/10 (Reactive nitrogen)

ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/14 (Techno-economic issues)

At its twenty-fifth session, the Executive Body mandated the Working Group on Strategies and Review to commence 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 2009 (ECE/EB.AIR/91, para. 63 (a)). The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review will present progress in the work, including a draft plan for the revision of the Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2008/13). The Executive Body may wish to provide guidance for the continuation of the work.

**Item 9: Compliance with protocol obligations**

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 17 December, morning

*Documentation:* ECE/EB.AIR/2008/3 (Eleventh report of the Implementation Committee)

The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present the Committee's eleventh report on compliance by individual Parties with their protocol obligations and on an in-depth review of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. The Executive Body is expected to consider the Committee's recommendations.

At its twenty-fifth session, the Executive Body elected four new members to the Implementation Committee for a term of two years and re-elected another three for a further period of two years. At its twenty-fourth session, the Executive Body elected one new member to the Committee for a period of two years and re-elected another member for a further period of two years. Those elected at the twenty-fourth session have now completed their terms of office, and elections are necessary. The Executive Body may wish to appoint a chair for the Committee.

**Item 10: Strategies and policies of Parties and Signatories to the Convention for the abatement of air pollution**

*Tentative timing:* Wednesday, 17 December, morning

The secretariat will provide a brief report on the national reporting to the 2008 questionnaire on strategies and policies for air pollution abatement as agreed by the Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session, as well as its proposed plans for the 2010 questionnaire. Delegations may wish to provide feedback on their experiences of the 2008 questionnaire and to make recommendations for the preparation of that for 2010.

**Item 11: Guidelines for Reporting Emission Data under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution**

**Tentative timing:** Wednesday, 17 December, afternoon

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/2008/4 (Guidelines for Reporting Emission Data under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary air Pollution)  
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/90 and Corr.1 (Report of the forty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review)  
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/1 (Strengthening the draft revised emission reporting guidelines)

The Executive Body will be informed by the Chair of the Steering Body of EMEP and the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review of the further revision of the revised Guidelines for Reporting Emission Data by the Working Group on Strategies and Review as advised by the ad hoc group of legal experts. The Executive Body is expected to consider adopting the Guidelines (ECE/EB.AIR/2008/4) for use in the Convention's work. The Executive Body is also expected to consider the decisions drafted by the ad hoc group of legal experts that link the Guidelines to the protocols to the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/1, annex).

**Item 12: A long-term strategy for the Convention**

**Tentative timing:** Wednesday, 17 December, afternoon

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/2008/6 (A long-term strategy for the Convention)

The Bureau of the Executive Body, being aware of a need for a long-term strategy for the Convention following the current rounds of negotiations on protocols, agreed to submit to the twenty-sixth session of the Executive Body an outline long-term strategy for the Convention. For this, the Bureau amended the 2008 workplan to include this task together with its plan to finalize the strategy for consideration at the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body. Delegations are invited to comment on the outline document and provide guidance for the Bureau to complete its work.

**Item 13: Air pollution and climate change: developing a framework for integrated co-benefits strategies**

**Tentative timing:** Wednesday, 17 December, afternoon

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/2008/10 (Report of the workshop on air pollution and climate change: developing a framework for integrated co-benefits strategies)

The Executive Body will have before it a report on the workshop on “Air pollution and climate change: developing a framework for integrated co-benefits strategies”. The Executive Body is expected to consider the conclusions and recommendations from the workshop and to decide upon further possible action.

**Item 14: Activities of UNECE bodies and international organizations relevant to the Convention**

*Tentative timing:* Thursday, 18 December, morning

The secretariat will report on relevant activities of UNECE bodies. Representatives of international organizations (e.g. the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization,) will be invited to provide information on their activities of particular relevance to the Convention. Representatives of organizations and networks from outside the region are invited to give information on existing and potential areas of collaboration with the Convention. The European Community will be invited to provide additional relevant information on the revision of the National Emission Ceilings Directive, collaboration with the Convention's technical bodies and programme centres, and future cooperation with the Convention. The secretariat may wish to inform the Executive Body on outreach activities over the past year. The Executive Body may wish to take this information into account when considering its workplan.

**Item 15: 2009 workplan for the implementation of the Convention**

*Tentative timing:* Thursday, 18 December, morning

*Documentation:* ECE/EB.AIR/2008/7 (Draft 2009 workplan for the effects-oriented activities)

ECE/EB.AIR/2008/8 (Draft workplan for EMEP for 2009)

ECE/EB.AIR/2008/9 (Draft 2009 workplan for the Working Group on Strategies and Review)

The Executive Body will be called upon to agree on a workplan for the implementation of the Convention in 2009, also taking into account its medium-term requirements. To assist the Executive Body in accomplishing this task, the secretariat will make available draft workplans as agreed by each of the main subsidiary bodies, based on drafts submitted to them, and will explain the procedures for adopting workplans. Delegations may wish to provide additional information for the workplan.

**Item 16: Financial requirements for implementation of the Convention**

**Tentative timing:** Thursday, 18 December, morning

**Documentation:** ECE/EB.AIR/2008/2 (Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention)

The Executive Body is expected to consider the status of the Convention and take the necessary steps to meet the costs of implementing the workplan. In particular, the budgets for EMEP, and for the core activities not covered by the EMEP Protocol, for 2009 and provisional budgeted amounts for the future will be adopted under this agenda item. The secretariat will present information on donations provided to support activities for the implementation of the Convention and its protocols in countries with economies in transition, as well as a budget for future work in this area. The Executive Body may wish to decide on further action to promote this work and attract the necessary funding.

**Item 17: Other business**

**Tentative timing:** Thursday, 18 December, morning

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

**Item 18: Election of officers**

**Tentative timing:** Thursday, 18 December, morning

The Bureau of the Executive Body currently comprises one chair and seven vice-chairs, including the chairs of the four major subsidiary bodies. The Executive Body is expected to elect these officers. They constitute the Bureau and will remain in office over the next session. The Executive Body is also expected to elect the chairs for the Working Group on Strategies and Review and for the Implementation Committee.

**Item 19: Adoption of decisions taken at the twenty-sixth session**

**Tentative timing:** Thursday, 18 December, afternoon

In accordance with the revised practice adopted by the Executive Body at its twenty-third session (ECE/EB.AIR/87, para. 73 (b)), and the decision taken at its twenty-fifth session to continue the practice for a further two years (ECE/EB.AIR/91, para. 96 (a)), the Executive Body will adopt its decisions taken during the session. The draft report of the session, reflecting the adopted

decisions, will be finalized by the Chair, in consultation with the secretariat, following the session and posted on the website of the Convention. The report will be presented for adoption at the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body.

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