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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Forty-first session
Geneva, 14–17 April 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 14 April 2008¹

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the report of the fortieth session of the Working Group
3. Matters arising from the twenty-fifth session of the Executive Body and other related meetings

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

4. Negotiation of amendments to the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants
5. Strengthening the draft revised Emission Reporting Guidelines
6. Activities to implement the revised Action Plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
7. Preparatory work for the negotiation of a revised Gothenburg Protocol
8. Other business
9. Adoption of the decisions of the Working Group

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 April, 3 p.m.

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/89

Item 2: Adoption of the report of the fortieth session of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 April, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88 (Report of the fortieth session)

Item 3: Matters arising from the twenty-fifth session of the Executive Body and other related meetings

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 April, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/91 (Report of the twenty-fifth session of the Executive Body)

The secretariat will draw attention to the discussions held within the twenty-fifth session of the Executive Body and to relevant decisions having implications for the work of the Working Group (ECE/EB.AIR/91). It will also draw attention to results of the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" held in Belgrade from 10 to 12 October 2007. The secretariat will also report on the status of the Convention and its protocols, noting new accessions and ratifications.

Item 4: Negotiation of amendments to the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 April, afternoon and Wednesday, 16 April, afternoon

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/4 (Persistent Organic Pollutants)

The Executive Body, at its twenty-fifth session, mandated the Working Group on Strategies and Review to negotiate draft amendments to the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) for presentation to its twenty-sixth session in 2008. Such amendments should cover (a) the scheduled reassessment for the substance-related provisions as well as the potential revisions to the provisions of the Protocol related to best available techniques (BAT) and emission limit values (ELVs); (b) inclusion of the seven “new” substances in the Protocol annexes; and (c) an expedited procedure regarding amendments to the annexes. The Working Group will have before it a draft working document on options for revising the Protocol on POPs prepared by the secretariat in collaboration with the Chair of the Working Group and the Co-Chairs of the Task Force on POPs. The document is based 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 the report of the Task Force on POPs (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/14) and the report on the options of expedited amendment procedure (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/5). In parallel to the session, national experts will have the opportunity to review the updates to the BAT-related provisions of the Protocol as well as to propose amendments to the relevant ELVs, as needed.

Item 5: Draft revised Guidelines for Reporting Emissions

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 April, morning

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/1 (Strengthening the Guidelines)
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/6 (Draft revised Guidelines for Reporting Emissions)

At its twenty-fifth session, the Executive Body agreed that the Steering Body of EMEP¹ had addressed the technical aspects of revising the Emission Reporting Guidelines, and invited the Working Group to continue its work of considering how the Guidelines might be strengthened, as decided at the Working Group’s fortieth session (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 so that the draft revised Guidelines might be adopted at that time. The Working Group will have before it the report of the ad hoc group of legal experts (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/1); the ad hoc group of legal experts had been invited by the Executive Body to explore further, in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, all possibilities under the already existing enabling clauses in the Convention and its protocols to give legally binding effect to the Guidelines or parts of them for Parties to these instruments. The Working Group

¹ The Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe.

will also have before it the draft revised Guidelines for Reporting Emissions (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/6).

Item 6: Activities to implement the revised Action Plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 April, afternoon

At its fortieth session, the Working Group noted the need to identify both the problems encountered by the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in ratification of the protocols and the steps that might be taken to address these problems. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the results of a short questionnaire it sent to non-Parties to the EMEP Protocol, the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Protocol on POPs and the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol, inviting them to share their experiences (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/88, para. 61 (c)(i)). The Working Group is expected to take this information into account in the further negotiations of new or revised protocols. Delegations will be invited to provide information on specific actions taken to implement the revised Action Plan.

Item 7: Preparatory work for the negotiations of a revised Gothenburg Protocol

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 April, morning and afternoon,
Thursday, 17 April, morning

Documentation: ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/2 (Report of the twelfth meeting of the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues)
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/3 (Report on the workshop on the integrated modelling of nitrogen)
ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/5 (Plan for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol)

At its twenty-fifth session, the Executive Body, based on the conclusions of the first review of the Gothenburg Protocol and its article 3, para. 12, mandated the Working Group to commence negotiations on further obligations to reduce emissions and to present the outcome of this work at the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in December 2009. The Executive Body recommended that work should take into account modelled optimized scenarios covering the whole geographic scope of EMEP without excluding the development of differentiated approaches for different subregions of UNECE. The Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling will present the baseline scenario for 2020 covering the whole geographic scope of EMEP. The Working Group will have before it the report on the workshop on the integrated modelling of nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/3). The Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues will present the results of its twelfth meeting (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/2), and will report on its

work on emerging technologies and will specify work elements for consideration by the Working Group, as requested by the Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/91, para. 64(b)). The Working Group is expected to explore views on the architecture of a new protocol, taking into consideration critical loads as a long-term objective and exploring possibilities to include dynamic aspects of air pollution effects. It is also expected to consider possible options for addressing major sources in the EECCA countries. The lead countries of the Expert Group on Particulate Matter (PM), Germany and the United Kingdom, have been invited to explore, from a policy perspective, options for addressing PM under the Convention, and to propose options that could be further explored by the Expert Group on PM. The Working Group is also expected to discuss metrics to consider PM and options for addressing primary measures, taking into account the report of the lead countries of this Expert Group. The Working Group is also expected to discuss options for consideration of hemispheric transport of air pollution and synergies with measures to tackle climate change. The secretariat will present a plan for revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, based on a proposal by the Chair of the Working Group for a work programme and deliverables related to the upcoming negotiations (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/5). The Working Group is expected to discuss the plan and adopt it.

Item 8: Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 17 April, morning

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

Item 9: Adoption of the decisions of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Thursday, 17 April, morning

The Working Group will adopt the decisions taken during the session, in accordance with the decision of the Executive Body at its twenty-fifth session, to continue with this practice for another period of two years (ECE/EB.AIR/91, para. 96 (a)). The draft report of the session, including the agreed decisions, will be finalized by the Chair, in consultation with the secretariat, following the session, and will be posted on the Convention website. The report will be presented for adoption at the forty-second session of the Working Group.