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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Twenty-seventh session
Geneva, 14–18 December 2009
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE BODY ON ITS
TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION**

ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its twenty-fifth session in 2007, the Executive Body adopted a revised mandate for its Bureau (ECE/EB.AIR/91/Add.1, annex I) that enabled the latter to decide upon urgent matters including amending the Convention's adopted workplan. The mandate requires that such changes to the workplan shall be done through a corrigendum to the workplan and that all substantive decisions shall be reported to the Executive Body. The secretariat has prepared this document for reporting purposes as is required under the mandate.

II. MEETINGS OF THE BUREAU IN 2009

2. At its twenty-sixth session in 2008, the Executive Body elected Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom) as Chair. The following were elected as Vice-Chairs: Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Ms. Engleryd (Sweden), Mr. A. Fretheim (Norway), Ms. V. Galatone (Canada),

Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway), Ms. N. Karpova (Russian Federation), Ms. M. Motlova (Czech Republic) and Ms. S. Vidic (Croatia). The Bureau is comprised of the chair and the vice-chairs. A representative of the European Commission was invited to attend Bureau meetings in 2009 as an observer, to ensure effective coordination with European Community activities on air pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/91, para. 123).

3. In 2009, up to the time of this report's completion, the Bureau had held three meetings, on 20 April, on 31 August and on 14 December, on the eve of the Executive Body's twenty-seventh session. Reports of the Bureau can be found online¹.

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE 2009 WORKPLAN

4. In accordance with its revised mandate, the Bureau agreed to amend the workplan as follows:

(a) To add, under section 1.1 Strategies and review, subsections (b) and (c) respectively: a reference to the mandates for the Working Group on Strategies and Review to work on heavy metals persistent organic pollutants (POPs), as agreed on 5 March 2009 by the Executive Body Bureau after the Executive Body's twenty-sixth session and in advance of the Working Group on Strategies and Review's forty-third session. The mandates are reflected in the annex to this document;

(b) Following a proposal by Sweden, to add a new item under section 1.1 Strategies and review: a workshop on intermediate climate policies-the contribution of air pollution policies in relation to climate stabilization and co-control (with Sweden as the lead country, in collaboration with the Convention and other international organizations), to be held from 19 to 21 October 2009 in Gothenburg, Sweden;

(c) To add a new item under section 1.9 Reactive Nitrogen: the third meeting of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, to be held on 24 and 25 November 2009 in Amsterdam.

5. The above amendments, together with an updated provisional calendar of meetings for 2010, were published in the Bureau's report of its 20 April 2009 meeting. After its adoption on 31 August 2009, the report² was made available on internet, as was the updated list of meetings for 2009 and provisional list for 2010³. The Executive Body may wish to consider and confirm these changes as appropriate, as required under the mandate of its Bureau.

¹ <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap/ExecutiveBureau/EB%20Bureau%20home.html>.

² <http://unece.org/env/lrtap/ExecutiveBody/bureau.html>.

³ <http://unece.org/env/lrtap/listofmeetings.htm>.

Annex

Mandates for the Working Group on Strategies and Review to work on heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants in 2009

1. The Executive Body mandates the Working Group on Strategies and Review:
 - (a) Based on the proposal of the European Union, to consider the work of the Task Force on Heavy Metals on track A and B reviews on mercury-containing products, and to decide appropriate action;
 - (b) To consider possibilities to produce a guidance document on best available technologies (BAT), instead of the current recommendatory annex III to the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals;
 - (c) To explore the possibilities for increasing ratifications of the protocols. These possibilities could include, inter alia, flexibilities regarding emission limit values and the application of BAT and timescales for implementation, management options for products, as well as through encouraging countries to provide bilateral support and capacity-building activities for countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE), taking into consideration possible options put forward by the Task Force on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2008/9);
 - (d) To report to the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in 2009.
2. The Executive Body mandates the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue negotiations with a view to finalizing discussions on amendments submitted by the European Union and Norway, and other formally proposed amendments to the annexes for consideration by the Parties to the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) at the Executive Body's twenty-seventh session in 2009.
3. The Working Group on Strategies and Review is also mandated:
 - (a) To explore possibilities for increasing ratifications. These possibilities could include, inter alia, flexibilities regarding emission limit values, and the application of BAT and timescales for implementation, as well as through encouraging countries to provide bilateral support and capacity-building activities for EECCA and SEE countries;
 - (b) To explore potential revisions to annexes IV–VIII of the Protocol on POPs related to BAT and ELVs;
 - (c) To consider updates to the text of the Protocol on POPs as necessary to reflect the amendments to the annexes;

(d) To consider at its forty-fifth session the track A and B reports from the Task Force on POPs on dicofol, endosulfan, hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD), pentachlorophenol and trifluralin, as submitted by Executive Body, and to decide on the need for further action;

(e) To submit recommendations on next steps to the Parties to the Protocol to the twenty-seventh session of the Executive Body in December 2009.
