

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

Bureau to the Executive Body

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU
TO THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION
31 August 2009, Geneva**

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau

1. The second meeting of the Bureau in 2009 was chaired by the Chairman of the Executive Body, Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom), and was attended by Vice-Chairpersons Ms. S. Vidic (Croatia), Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland), Ms. A. Engleryd (Sweden), Ms. V Galatone (Canada, through audioconference system), Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway) and Ms. N. Karpova (Russian Federation). Mr. A. Zuber attended as observer for the European Commission. Mr. A. Fretheim was unable to attend. Ms. C. Masson, Ms. A. Karadjova, Mr. M. Johansson, Ms. T. Aulavuo, Mr. L. Wyrowski and Mr. R. Chrast attended for the UNECE secretariat.

**I. NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING OF 20 APRIL 2009 (EB BUREAU/2009/1)
INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

2. The note of the meeting had been circulated and the Bureau agreed that it should be placed on the Convention's website at www.unece.org/env/lrtap/ExecutiveBody/bureau.html.

**II. ISSUES RELATING TO THE WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIES AND
REVIEW**

3. Mr. Ballaman, as Chair of the WGSR, informed the EB Bureau about the objectives of the upcoming 45th session of the WGSR regarding the progress in the negotiations of the three protocols under revision. Regarding the POPs Protocol, where negotiations were the most advanced, he was optimistic that the protocol amendments could be adopted at the upcoming EB session of 2009. He highlighted the relevance of the new amendments to the protocol which would incorporate 7 new pollutants, thus keeping it more ambitious than the Stockholm Convention.

4. The Bureau discussed the problem of the ratification of the amendments of articles 14 and 16 to the Protocol on POPs that were adopted at the Executive Body session in December 2008. The question was to decide on whether Parties to the Protocol on POPs should be invited to separately ratify the articles 14 and 16 or whether these amendments should be bundled together with those that Parties are expected to adopt in December 2009, so as to open for ratification all amendments to the Protocol and to its annexes for ratification at the same time. The secretariat informed that due to a dramatic work overload in the translation services, articles 14 and 16 were

still not translated and therefore had still not been deposited to the UN Treaty Depository in New York to open them for ratification. The question of the relevance of depositing them separately and so shortly in advance of the other amendments to be adopted in December 2009 or whether to submit them with the coming amendments was discussed¹.

5. Regarding the Gothenburg Protocol, Mr. Ballaman indicated that the baseline scenarios were not yet finalized, and in particular there would still need to be a decision whether to include energy and climate change in these scenarios. Mr. Zuber informed the Bureau that a completely new set of energy scenarios (and therefore emission baselines) will be decided in the EU by end September 2009. The corresponding amended emission scenario for the EU will not be proposed before January 2010. Mr. Zuber also indicated that EU preferred that the technical annexes should be outside the Protocol, preferring that they be in a separate guidance document, and therefore easier to update.

III. ISSUES RELATING TO THE OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

6. Mr. Johannessen outlined progress in effects-oriented activities, including target-setting and development of policy-relevant indicators by implementing the new *Guidelines on reporting effects*, which were provisionally reported in ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2009/16. He also drew attention to the report on airborne nitrogen effects, prepared in collaboration with TFIAM and TFRN (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2009/15). He finally summarized the meeting of experts of the Air Convention and the Convention of Biological Diversity in November.

7. Ms. Vidic explained that the work of the Steering Body was currently very much focusing on nitrogen. She also said that the coming meeting of the Steering Body has been reshaped to give more room to thematic presentations, and that a discussion on the final draft of the EMEP strategy, as streamlined and shortened, would take place during this session. She also noted that an important challenge for Eastern Europe was to gradually develop the capacity of monitoring centres and the knowledge of the staff at these centres.

8. The secretariat (Ms. Karadjova) informed the Bureau about progress in the work of the Implementation Committee. She drew attention to the increasing volume of work of the Committee in recent years, especially since the entry into force of the latest three protocols, which was reflected into an ever increasing length of its report. In the past couple of years, the Committee's report to the EB had been in the order of 65 pages and had been translated with a special waiver on an exceptional basis. As this was no longer possible (no waivers would be granted for pre-session documents), the secretariat was looking into alternative ways of presenting the Committee's work and recommendations in conformity with the UN rules on documentation.

¹ This question was finally solved through a consultation of the Bureau members a few days after the Bureau meeting. Based on new elements of information emanating from the 45th WGSR meeting held immediately after the Bureau, it was unanimously decided by the members of the Bureau that articles 14 and 16 would be deposited at the same time as the other amendments that will be submitted, as a package, to the EB for adoption in 2009.

9. Ms. Karadjova also informed the Bureau that the Committee had carried out an information-gathering mission at the invitation of Spain and in accordance with para. 6(b) of its terms of reference (decision 2006/2). According to preliminary information, the mission had been a success. The secretariat also drew attention to the completion of the second in-depth review of the implementation of the Protocol on POPs and the Protocol on Heavy Metals. As mentioned by Mr. Fretheim at the previous meeting of the Bureau, these reviews represented a huge effort both for the Committee and for the secretariat, and taking into account their results, there was a need for reconsidering the methodology and timing of such reviews in the future.

IV. LINKS WITH CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES

10. Following the IPCC meeting in Venice (April 2009) in which no Bureau members participated, the secretariat of the Convention was invited in July 2009 to comment on the outline of the fifth IPCC assessment report. After having consulted the Chairs of the EB and the WGSR, the secretariat, Mr. Johansson, gave feedback to the IPCC secretariat that the initial structure was not reflecting the synergies and tradeoffs between air pollution and climate change mitigation, nor the research work and progress on N cycle in connection with the C cycle.

11. Mr. Williams informed that in July 2009 he chaired a forum organized by GAP and UNEP that will produce surveys on black carbon and on ozone. CLRTAP was noted as a possible player in further work on these issues. The report is to be issued in 2010.

12. Ms. Engleryd informed the Bureau about the workshop that Sweden is organizing on Intermediate climate policies-the contribution of air-pollution policies in relation to climate stabilisation and co-control (Gothenburg, 19-21 October 2009, <http://www.naturvardsverket.se/en/In-English/Menu/GlobalMenu/Calendar-of-events/Intermediate-climate-policies/>). A book for policy-makers is under preparation and will be ready for the workshop. The workshop will pay particular attention to black carbon, an issue which is raising an increased interest in different instances (International Council for Transport, AMAP-Arctic, and Arctic Council).

V. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONVENTION

13. The secretariat, Ms. Masson, informed the Bureau of the progress made in the drafting of the Long-Term Strategy (LTS) since the previous meeting. She summarized the replies to the questionnaire that was circulated in early July to the members of the EB Bureau and presented the major elements that were retained for elaborating the new draft of the LTS (See annex 1) which was circulated to the members of the bureau in advance of the meeting. Mr. Chrast gave further explanation on the structure and content of the draft.

14. The Bureau expressed its views on the content of the secretariat's draft of the LTS. Some underlined that the Convention was a unique network of scientists, monitoring experts and policy makers. The importance of the regional aspect was also seen as a typical feature of the Convention,

broader than the EU but smaller than a global approach, covering the most advanced countries, thus positioning the Convention in a particular and unique position.

15. The Bureau recognized that the draft of the LTS contained all major elements, and that it was a good preliminary document. Nevertheless, although covering all elements, these could have been presented more sharply. Mr. Williams said that the Convention was at a key stage in its development and there were some critical issues to address. It was now time to have a more in-depth discussion in the EB, to address the difficult questions, and to make clear decisions. Ms. Vidic said that streamlining was necessary, and that critical and tough questions should now be addressed. There was a general opinion that it was too early to submit the draft of the Strategy as an official document to the next EB session in December 2009 and that further discussion on the strategic lines was necessary based on a document in three languages that would raise the most important questions.

16. Mr. Williams, as Chair of the Convention, tabled a paper containing critical questions that he had drafted on the basis of the draft of the secretariat and requested the secretariat to circulate it to the EB Bureau for comments. This paper as amended would be submitted for discussion to the 2009 EB session as an official document (ECE/EB.AIR/2009/5).

VI. CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN EECCA AND SEE COUNTRIES

17. The secretariat informed about its activities and progress made since the previous EB Bureau meeting regarding the three ongoing projects on capacity building carried out in SEE and EECCA countries:

a. Capacity building project for West Balkans financed by the Netherlands:

The secretariat, noting the slow progress made by the countries since the kick-off meeting in February 2009, initiated a consultation meeting in Skopje (2 July 2009) to further guide the countries through the project. It appeared that the contract needed to be reformulated to better fit the capabilities of the countries. This was done in consultation with the donor project manager. It appeared that only three out of five countries had been active and would be able to submit their National Action Plans by September 2009. New deadlines were set by the secretariat and an agenda was developed for the following steps. Other such consultation meetings were requested by the recipient countries in the further steps of the project as they were considered useful guidance;

b. Capacity building project for Moldova financed by the Czech Republic

After several unsuccessful attempts with the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection of Moldova to designate an implementing agency, the Carbon Fund Moldova was finally designated and a MoU signed with the UNECE setting the objectives and different steps of the project and the modalities for releasing the funds from the UNECE E112 dedicated Trust Fund.

c. Russian Federation-led joint-project with Belarus and Kazakhstan on the ratification and implementation of CLRTAP Protocols in EECCA countries. The secretariat was able to find some financing for covering the inception (design) step of the project through the assistance-cooperation fund of the UNECE (i.e. 42,000 USD). The design phase will be developed from

autumn 2009 until April 2010. The implementing agency will be the Scientific Research Institute for Atmospheric Air Protection of St Petersburg.

VII. 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

18. With reference to the proposal by the Russian Federation to host the 30th anniversary celebration in April 2010 in St Petersburg, Ms. Karpova informed that a preliminary agreement has been concluded between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology and the Scientific Research Institute on Atmospheric Air Pollution which would organize the meeting, and that this official event would take place in St Petersburg on 19-23 April 2010. The ministry has requested the Governor of St Petersburg to provide all security protection for this event. The ministry would not financially support the event. The financing was to be searched by private sponsors. This would be the task of the Institute.

19. The Bureau discussed the specific issues which could be launched at St Petersburg in case the celebrations would take place there. Mr. Ballaman indicated that the POPs Protocol could be ready by that time, and that the flexibility elements for the EECCA countries introduced in the Protocol could be highlighted as a new important development for the EECCA countries.

20. The secretariat pointed out that, in case the Institute would fail to ensure the financing of the event in St Petersburg in April, some other actions to mark the event needed to be undertaken by the end of 2009. The secretariat suggested that a short brochure reflecting 30 years of achievements would be prepared, the cost of which would be of some 5,000-7,000 euros (depending on whether it would be translated into the three languages), and requested the Bureau members to consider covering the cost of this brochure by extra contributions. The secretariat also informed that, with its internal information and communication service, it would attempt to organize a press briefing on the date of the signature of the Convention (14 November) which would give visibility to the Convention on the web. Time and resource permitting, the secretariat also intended to prepare a special webpage for the anniversary to be ready by the EB session.

21. Mr. Williams and Mr. Ballaman offered to draft and circulate other suggestions for celebrating the event to the EB bureau. The bureau agreed to further discuss the need for such an event.

VIII. CHANGES IN THE 2009 WORK PLAN

22. The Bureau decided to add in the list of meetings of the 2009 work plan:

- (a) The third meeting of the Task Force on Nitrogen (24-25 November 2009)
- (b) The Workshop on intermediate climate policies - the contribution of air-pollution policies in relation to climate stabilisation and co-control (in collaboration with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency) (19–21 October 2009 Gothenburg, Sweden).

IX. OTHER ACTIVITIES

23. Current concerns of the secretariat: documentation processing, the balance of workload and available human resources in the secretariat (See annex 2). Ms. Masson informed the Bureau of the secretariat's current difficulties regarding the production and processing of the session documentation, the amount of which was increasing significantly. She presented statistics showing a twenty percent increase in the number of pages in the period 2004-2008, with an expected further rise in the two years to come, linked to the ongoing negotiations of the three Protocols POPs, Heavy Metals and Gothenburg. She pointed out that the problem was not only limited to the Convention secretariat team, but to the entire UN processing chain that was currently unable to absorb the work of translating the documents. She informed that most of the documents for the coming sessions of the subsidiary bodies in September 2009 would not be translated in time, which would certainly affect the negotiation process in the sense that non-English-speaking delegations would not be able to work out their positions with their national experts in advance of the meetings.

24. Ms. Masson also highlighted the difficulties internal to the secretariat team, with respect to the fact that the 3.5 professional staff were confronted with an increased workload corresponding to: the current period of negotiation of the protocols, and increased activities and number of meetings of the subsidiary bodies, the elaboration of the LTS, the assistance to projects for capacity building in EECCA countries and the celebration of the anniversary. A comparison was made with the late 90s when the three protocols were negotiated for the first time and the staff was comprised of 5 professionals. Mr. Ballaman added that in the meantime the Programme for EECCA countries has been adopted while no additional secretariat staff resources have been allocated for this purpose. The secretariat confirmed that its increased involvement in the EECCA programme activities and project in 2009 represented a substantial part of its time and efforts.

X. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

25. **The Bureau agreed to meet a.m. 14 December 2009** , tentatively from 9:30 to 12:30, at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva (room number not known at the time of writing this report), **just prior to the 27th Executive Body session (Geneva, 14-18 December 2009).**

Annex 1

Draft LTS as addressed by the secretariat to the EB Bureau members on 13 August 2009 for discussion at the EB Bureau meeting of 31 August 2009

DRAFT

Moving forward: A strategic vision for the Convention on the Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2010–2020

Introduction

Recognizing the new challenges in and broader aspects of efficient air pollution control policies, in 2008 the Bureau of the Executive Body realized the need for a strategic vision for the Convention and for a long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2008/6). At its twenty-sixth session, the Executive Body welcomed the initiative, noting that such a strategy would provide a useful basis for future work. It requested the Bureau, together with the Bureau of the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the secretariat, to draw up a revised draft long-term strategy and to submit it for further consideration.

The mission of the Convention

Conceived to combat acid rains in Europe, over the past 30 years the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution has made significant contributions to the effective control of air pollution emissions and their transboundary transport in Europe and North America. When signed in 1979, the Convention laid down the basic principles of coordinated, targeted international cooperation for air pollution abatement in the UNECE region, as well as an institutional framework to link scientific research and policy. [The Parties to the Convention agreed, inter alia:

(a) To protect man and his environment against air pollution and to endeavour to limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution²;

(b) By means of exchanges of information, consultation, research and monitoring, to develop without undue delay policies and strategies that would serve as a means to combat the discharge of air pollutants, taking into account efforts already made at the national and international levels;

(c) To exchange information on and review their policies, scientific activities and technical measures aimed at combating, as far as possible, the discharge of air pollutants that may have adverse effects, thereby contributing to the reduction of air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution.]

The Convention is a framework instrument which, even upon its adoption, foresaw the need to develop specific protocols to control air pollution. In the past 30 years, the Convention has been extended by eight legally binding protocols. Ninety percent of the UNECE member States are Parties to the Convention. Increased ratification of the protocols, and in particular the tangible

² The Convention defined air pollution as: “the introduction by man, directly or indirectly, of substances or energy into the air resulting in deleterious effects of such a nature as to endanger human health, harm living resources and ecosystems and material property, and impair or interfere with amenities and other legitimate uses of the environment, ...”. This definition does not contradict common understanding of air pollution as any modification in the composition of the air that affects its original physico-chemical and biological characteristics.

results in reducing emissions and improving the environment observed during the past few decades, clearly bear witness to the Convention's effectiveness. The Convention has succeeded in bringing scientists and policymakers together, creating a powerful collective driving force to improve the environment and human health.

Science has always played an important role in the air pollution control policies developed under the Convention. Concrete control measures have the sound scientific base of long-term monitoring and evaluation of the air pollution situation in Europe and of in-depth studies of air pollution's effects on human health and the environment. While the focus of the Convention has been clearly regional, focused on the UNECE geographical area, it has also set an example for other regions around the world, as well as for global action.

If in recent years other international organizations and bodies have taken important steps – including in some cases multilateral agreements to address air pollution and related problems on the hemispheric and global levels – the Convention continues to play a unique role in addressing the environmental problems of the UNECE region.

Furthermore, with its many years of practical experience and in particular its well-established network of monitoring, research and modelling activities, the Convention has remained at the forefront: it continues to identify new air pollution-related problems and to set standards for their effective control. Other regions have and continue to follow the Convention's example. Its future success will be determined primarily by clearly defined objectives; a realistic, flexible and transparent approach; the effective use of resources and the sharing of knowledge; and tapping potential synergies with other efforts, while avoiding duplication.

Despite the impressive results achieved by the Convention and its Protocols, there is no time for complacency. Lingering problems requiring further attention, *inter alia*:

- (a) Certain areas of the UNECE region still suffer from serious air pollution;
- (b) Participation of countries in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) in the Convention and its protocols is not yet satisfactory;
- (c) Ratification of the protocols is relatively slow;
- (d) There are protocols simultaneously in force that tackle the same pollutants and set diverging targets for the same Party;
- (e) Implementation of and compliance with the protocols still have shortcomings;
- (f) Coordination with activities of other institutions/bodies dealing with issues relevant to the Convention is insufficient;
- (g) Essential research and monitoring activities under the Convention suffer from insufficient long-term financing;
- (h) Outside the UNECE region, the transboundary air pollution, interregional and global air pollution problems are not being tackled effectively;
- (i) Inter-convention, interorganizational or intersectoral cooperation are needed to address environmental problems interlinked with air pollution, e.g. climate change, the control of hazardous chemicals and the loss of biodiversity;
- (j) In the midst of numerous competing environmental concerns and activities, the public visibility of the Convention has decreased somewhat over the years;
- (k) The Convention secretariat has limited human resources.

Current regional and global environmental challenges relevant to the Convention

In 1999, on the occasion of signing the Gothenburg Protocol, the Executive Body considered that in the years to come its strategic priorities would be (a) to review and extend existing protocols and (b) to implement and increase compliance with existing agreements (ECE/EB.AIR/68, annex III, para. 2). Emphasis on these two aspects of the Convention's work has proven relevant and fully justified; these issues remain the main focus of current activities under the Convention.

The Executive Body also concurred that these two policy-related tasks required sound scientific support, with an emphasis on three areas or core activities (ECE/EB.AIR/68, annex III, para.3):

- (a) Atmospheric measurements and modelling;
- (b) Evaluation of effects;
- (c) Integrated assessment, including modelling and economic benefit evaluation.

Over the years, however, the overall context for implementing environmental policies, both at the national and international levels, has changed. New challenges have emerged and the driving forces have changed and evolved. Effective response to new conditions, influences and challenges requires that activities under the Convention be adequately refocused, readjusted and/or redeployed. While the Convention's annual workplans have reflected the actual short-term priorities of the region's air pollution control policies, no concerted effort has been made since 1999 to review and update the overall strategy of the Convention and/or its structure.

While the Convention is facing new challenges, possibilities for further developing its activities are numerous. In addition to the pollutants involved in acidification and eutrophication, heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, reactive nitrogen, tropospheric ozone and small atmospheric particles are receiving much attention, as are their impacts on human health and the environment. More information is also needed on the many possible synergies and trade-offs of air quality and climate change, including alternative ways to solve related problems. Further studies are needed on the "classification" and "scaling" of air pollution problems to ensure that they are addressed efficiently at the right level, i.e. national, regional, hemispheric or global. Continuing globalization and the rapid rise in air pollution in certain regions necessitates new common pollution control policies not only regionally, but on the hemispheric and global scales. It is logical to expect that the developed industrialized nations should play a leading role. The task of achieving these goals presents the UNECE region in general and the Convention in particular with both unique opportunities and important responsibilities. Effective, close cooperation between all the relevant international institutions/bodies is essential. At the same time, the various international instruments controlling pollution may need to be reviewed, and their consistency and synergy with the Convention and its Protocols revisited.³

The Convention's strategy for 2010–2020

³ A number of international instruments and/or initiatives may be quoted in this context, e.g. the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and negotiations of the Mercury Treaty (led by the United Nations Environment Programme).

Given these challenges and opportunities, the main objectives of the Convention in the coming years will be:

(a) To pursue efforts to control air pollution and its adverse impact on human health and the environment in the UNECE region, by duly implementing the existing protocols and/or by developing and applying additional instruments to ensure adequate and timely responses to existing and newly emerging environmental challenges;

(b) To seek effective cooperation and information-sharing with other relevant international institutions/bodies, with a view to coordinating efforts to control air pollution and to assess reductions in the adverse effects of emissions both within and outside the UNECE region; to continue efforts to understand the transport and effects of air pollution and related issues on the hemispheric or global scales; and to ensure the rational use of available resources, while maximizing the results of concerted action and avoiding undue duplication.

The focus and content of activities for achieving these objectives will vary from year to year, depending on the current pollution situation, the state of the population's health and the environment, new scientific knowledge, and the social and economic priorities of the region. The Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively to such challenges.

To ensure further progress and swift responsive action, the Convention needs to cover a broad range of issues through activities. It also needs to have a sufficiently flexible organizational structure, to allow its bodies to meet the demands of the rapidly changing situation and thus solve important issues.

In the coming years, priority attention shall be given to the following issues⁴:

(a) Further development of Protocols under the Convention and related annexes

(i) Provide continued support to the activities of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, which aim to review and revise existing instruments, and to prepare new ones;

(ii) Consider the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in the context of short-term (2020) and long-term (2050) time frames, using the latest scientific knowledge on, inter alia, critical loads, reactive nitrogen, ozone, particulate matters, environment and human health effects, and the effective use of all available tools to control the pollution. These could include best available techniques (BAT) and emission limit values (ELVs), paying due attention to links to and possible synergies with climate change mitigation and policies to reduce greenhouse gases emissions;

⁴ There are, however, numerous other environmental problems related to the activities of the Convention that might require attention of the Executive Body. These include, for instance:

(a) Shipping and aircraft emissions, which may partly offset the achievements of the Convention's protocols, to be addressed in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aircraft Organization;

(b) The implications of ozone pollution to agricultural productivity, food quality and security;

(c) Integrated approaches to the abatement of greenhouse gases and air pollution; consideration of science-based strategies for broad-spectrum mitigation measures, including the pollutants already controlled under the Convention's protocols, but also small particles (black carbon), nitrous oxide, methane and other short-lived greenhouse gases;

(d) Local health threats and life expectancy relationships in cities and adjacent industrial hot spots, and the impact of urban problems, including transport (mobile sources), on meeting national emission commitments under the Protocols.

(iii) Review and update the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), based on adequate scientific knowledge and verified data in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and activities under the Stockholm Convention on POPs; make use of potential synergies for the implementation of both instruments in EECCA and SEE countries;

(iv) Revise the Protocol on Heavy Metals, as appropriate, in response to new information and the results of technical reviews of additional metals, product measures and product groups, taking into account the relevant activities of UNEP, emerging state-of-the-art information, and up-to-date BAT for all sources covered by the Protocol;

(v) Undertake the proper steps to avoid possible misinterpretation of Parties' obligations, and eliminate overlaps and discrepancies regarding commitments for the same substance under various protocols;

(vi) Explore the possibility of introducing more flexibility into the technical annexes to the protocols, with a view to ratification by additional Parties;

(vii) Cooperate closely with other relevant organizations and institutions in developing activities of common interest, and avoid unnecessary duplication or conflicts with other international air pollution agreements/instruments.

(b) Progress in ratification of the Convention and its protocols

(i) Facilitate ratification of the protocols by, in particular, SEE and EECCA countries, through developing a ratification process with an appropriate mix of mandatory and recommendatory technical annexes combined with flexible time schedules for compliance, without compromising the Protocols' general objectives;

(ii) Promote ratification of the Convention and accession to its Protocols by additional countries by providing them with sufficient information and guidance, including facts on the benefits of emission reductions, in a user-friendly format and language, with technical advice and other required forms of support.

(c) Effective implementation of and full compliance with the Protocols

(i) Support further development of activities of the Implementation Committee in reviewing compliance with reporting obligations, considering submissions or referrals, in particular in preparing in-depth reviews of compliance with specified obligations in the individual protocols;

(ii) Continue to analyse the main common shortcomings in implementing the Protocols, and in particular the reasons for non-compliance by certain Parties with their Protocol obligations; develop and apply adequate forms of assistance;

(iii) Investigate possibilities for – and if possible apply – more efficient tools and rigorous measures to ensure full compliance with Protocol obligations.

(d) Further development of the scientific strengths of the Convention

(i) Further develop the scientific basis of the Convention by stimulating and supporting relevant activities carried out mostly, but not exclusively, by the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body;

(ii) Ensure continued consistency between the long-term objectives of the Convention and the monitoring, modelling and research activities of the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body; ensure the effective coordination of their work and the rational use of available resources;

(iii) See that well-targeted activities not only collate and evaluate available scientific knowledge related to emerging health and environmental problems, but also measure progress achieved vis-à-vis the protocols' implementation, e.g. by trend analysis. These activities should also provide data suitable for integrated assessment models and thus eventual future revisions of the protocols. In

addition, they should support development of new air pollution abatement strategies and political decision-making at the national and international levels.

(e) Links between air pollution and other environmental problems

(i) Explore interrelations, possible synergies and trade-offs between air quality and other environmental problems, in particular but not exclusively those connected with climate change, biodiversity, hazardous substances and the global nitrogen issues;

(ii) Develop adequate monitoring and modelling activities for quantifying these relationships in terms of environmental and health effects, recognizing that models and their validation by monitoring are essential to interpreting and predicting the direction and rates of change of air pollution and climate change effects;

(iii) In addressing the air quality and climate change problems, whenever possible use their synergies and trade-offs as well as common data sources (e.g. emission data), as harmonizing data sources is the starting point for bringing various scientific resources together;

(iv) Recognize, in addition to the important link between air pollution control and climate change and biodiversity, the importance of links to other areas such as economic competitiveness, energy security and public health; raise public awareness regarding these issues;

(v) Ensure close coordination and intensified cooperation with other relevant organizations/bodies in developing control measures and instruments that take advantage of synergies and co-benefits linked with climate change mitigation and adaptation.

(f) Cooperation with other organizations and institutions

(i) Intensify existing and/or develop new forms of cooperation with other relevant organizations and institutions, in particular the European Union, UNEP, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the European Environment Agency and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to advance and implement measures and instruments to control air pollution and related human health problems in the UNECE region; actively participate in solving these problems in other regions and/or on the hemispheric or global scale.

(g) Scientific and policy outreach

(i) Further develop links of communication and strengthen collaboration between North America, Europe and Central Asia, especially with regard to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;

(ii) Further explore the scientific and policy links between the UNECE region and other regions developing air pollution abatement strategies, e.g. through regional air pollution initiatives such as the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET) and the Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and Its Likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia. This should be continued both bilaterally and through the mechanism of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum, making use as well of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution.

(h) Communication strategy, reporting and information sharing

(i) Develop an active information strategy, focusing on presentation and interpretation of the Convention's results and achievements; review new threats to human health and the environment, and draft action-oriented proposals to address them with specific references to the economic benefits of effective air pollution control;

(ii) Review the Convention's reporting policy, with a view to rationally using resources and providing the timely information required for planning, implementation and evaluation of activities

under the Convention, and for rational decision-making regarding future measures for air pollution abatement;

(iii) Raise the political and general public awareness of these important issues, thus eliciting the necessary political and financial support for activities under the Convention;

Organization of work under the Convention

The present structure of the bodies under the Convention is shown in figure 1. The basic structure comprises the Executive Body; the Implementation Committee, reporting directly to it; and three main subsidiary bodies: the Working Group on Effects, the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Strategies and Review. In principle, work under the Executive Body is organized into two parts: the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body provide the necessary scientific and technical support, and the Working Group on Strategies and Review provides a forum for discussions related to policymaking. This basic structure and its mode of operation have remained basically unchanged since 1999. It now needs to be re-evaluated, with a view to ensuring its ability to efficiently cope with the upcoming challenges, while at the same time avoiding over-hierarchization and ensuring easy communication between all bodies under the Convention.

There have been changes, however, in the scientific and technical groups' reporting to the main subsidiary bodies. Certain new groups were established to address specific problems. In particular, the Executive Body established the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution and the Centre for Emission Inventories and Projections under EMEP, and the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues, the Task Force on Heavy Metals, the Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen under the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The mandates of some of the existing scientific and technical groups have also changed, mainly through the workplans agreed by the Executive Body, to ensure that work meets the Convention's requirements.

The mandates of the main subsidiary bodies should continue to be regularly reviewed, at least every five years, and if necessary revised to correspond with the current requirements of the Convention and the Executive Body, in particular the priorities of the current long-term strategy. These mandates, however, should not impose undue restrictions on and/or curb the initiative of these bodies, which should enjoy sufficient autonomy to allow them to rationally plan their activities and methods of work as well as fully utilize the capacities and expertise available to meet the Convention's overall needs and objectives.

To quickly and efficiently respond to changing environmental situations and air pollution abatement priorities, the Convention's organizational structure should be manageable, flexible and not too "heavy".⁵ Obviously, newly emerging problems will impose new tasks on the Executive Body, necessitating the establishment of new teams or groups. This should be done, however, taking due account of the priorities of the Executive Body and of the limited manpower and financial resources available, together with the impact the servicing of new activities will have on the secretariat and its ability to meet its day-to-day and long-term obligations. If a decision is made to establish a new team or group, precise targets should be defined and the necessary duration of related activities should be foreseen. In principle, however, the organizational structure of the Convention needs to be streamlined rather than further expanded. While numerous monitoring, scientific/research and modelling activities essential for the Convention have, by their nature, a

⁵ Strengthening of the position of the Bureau of the Executive Body and giving it more decision-making power between annual sessions of the Executive Body could contribute to the improved efficacy of the Convention's organization.

continuous or more permanent character, some acute technical problems and tasks might be effectively solved by ad hoc groups of experts.

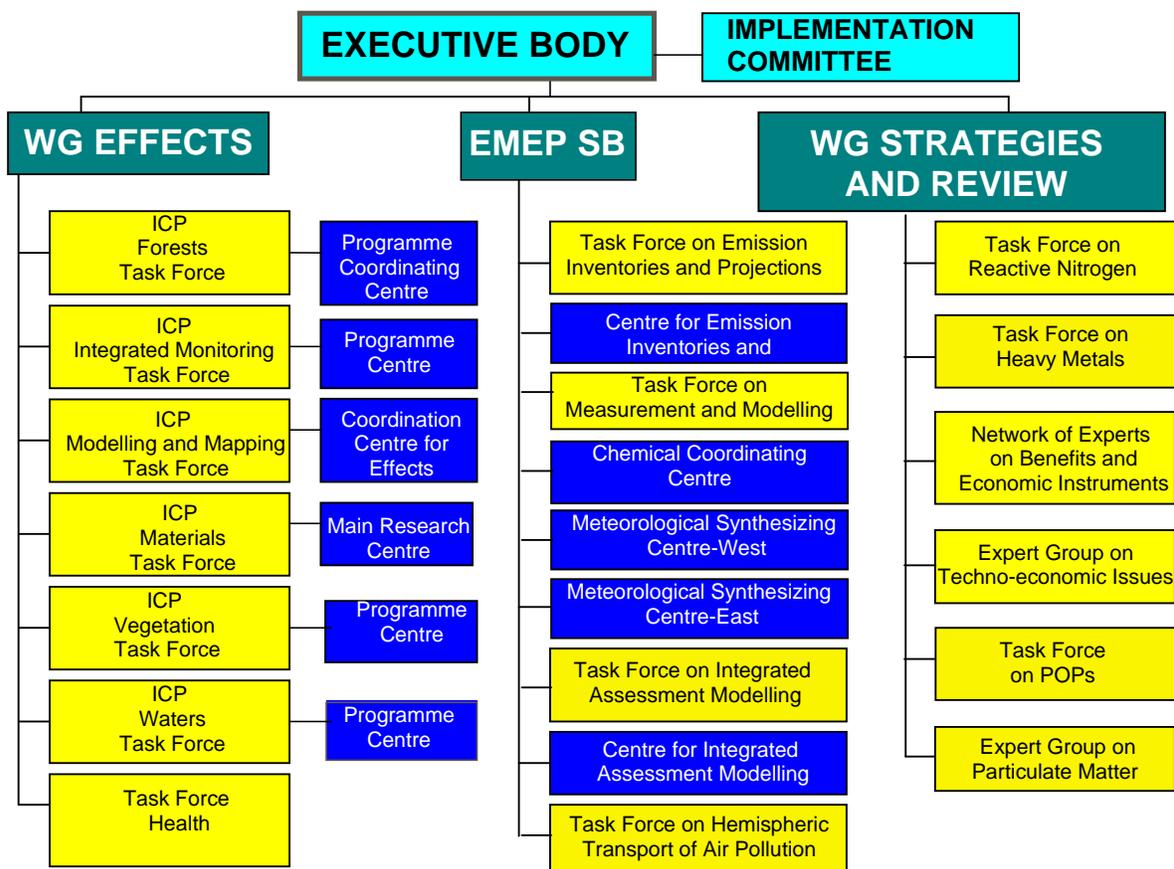
Conclusions

It is important to continue to further develop the Convention's strengths and the foundations of its success, i.e. sound scientific knowledge, reliable data, large-scale and long-term monitoring, modelling, and developing policies based on effects-based, cost-effective approaches. The Convention has provided concrete tools to reduce air pollution, with proven positive results with respect to human health and the environment. But the Convention has just begun to pay sufficient attention to other important, closely interlinked problems, in particular climate change mitigation, the reduction of greenhouse emissions and sustainable nitrogen management. The Convention has also started to plan in a forward-looking manner, by formulating aspirational targets for 2050 and finding positive synergies with other partners. In the coming years, more active participation in addressing common environmental problems on the hemispheric and even global scales will be inevitable.

The Executive Body and its main subsidiary bodies must respond swiftly to any expected rapid developments, and in particular to the environmental and energy policies and applications of the new environment-friendly technologies implied by, for example, the G-8 summit agreement⁶. Any delays in responding to such demands will undermine the Convention's credibility and its position as a key player in the global fight against air pollution and its adverse effects on the environment and human health.

⁶ The leaders of the world's most powerful economies pledged to seek huge cuts in their greenhouse gas emissions at the G-8 summit in L'Aquila, Italy, in July 2009. They expressed their wish to "join a global response to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in global emissions by 2050 and to a goal of an aggregate 80 per cent or more reduction by developed countries by that date". They also "called upon major emerging economies to undertake quantifiable actions to collectively reduce emissions significantly below business-as-usual by a specified year". This development should be seen as a new challenge for activities under the Convention.

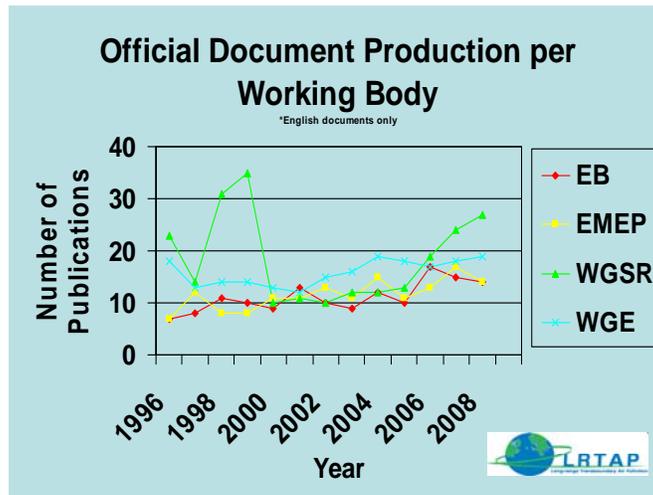
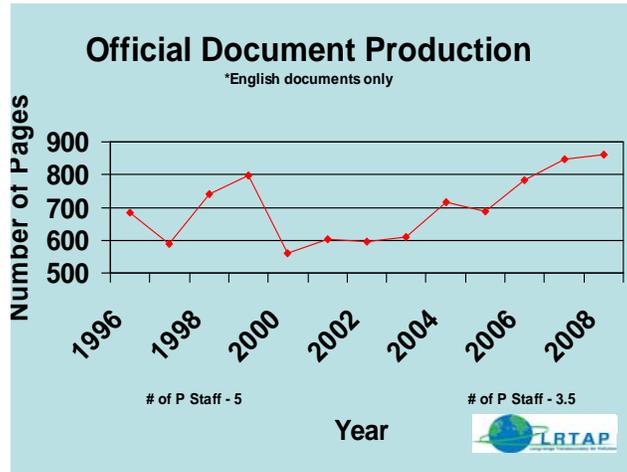
Figure. Current structure of the Convention



Abbreviations: ICP: International Cooperative Programme; POPs: Persistent Organic Pollutants; SB: Steering Body; WG: Working Group.

Annex 2

Documentation production and processing and resources of the secretariat



A quick comparison with other secretariats

	LRTAP Convention	Basel Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm Convention
Parties	51	172	128	164
Parties/ staff	10.2	8.6	6.8	9.2
Number of Bodies	EB+4	COP+3	COP+2	COP+3
Staff (2008)				
D1		1	0.5	0.75
P5	0.5	3	2	2
P4	1.7	3	3	4
P3	1.3	3	6	3.5
P2		2	2	
G	1.5	8	5.2	7.5
Total (G+P)	5	20	18.8	17.8
Meetings (2008)				
Official	7	3	2	5
Others	24			12
Parliamentary Documentation (2008)				
Documents	76	90	65	39
Documents/ staff	15.2	4.5	3.7	2.1
Publications (2008)				
Publications	n/a	n/a		