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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-fifth session
Geneva, 31 August–4 September 2009
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

OPTIONS FOR REVISING THE GOTHENBURG PROTOCOL

ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS FOR REVISION SUBMITTED BY PARTIES

Note by the secretariat

Summary

At its forty-fourth session in April 2009, the Working Group on Strategies and Review took note of the working document on options for revision of the Gothenburg Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2009/4), agreed that it would be a basis for negotiations of the revision at the forty-fifth session, and invited the secretariat to collect additional contributions and proposals for revision by 20 May 2009 and to present these to the Working Group at its forty-fifth session. This document presents additional suggestions for amendments submitted by Greece, the Netherlands and the United States of America.

I. AMENDMENT SUGGESTED BY GREECE

Article 1

DEFINITIONS

7. "Emission" means the release of a substance from a point or diffuse source into the atmosphere [as a result of human activity];

II. AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY THE NETHERLANDS

Article 1

DEFINITIONS

Add:

18. "Countries with economies in transition" are countries as defined in Executive Body decision 2006/13 and any amendment thereto".

Article 3

BASIC OBLIGATIONS

12. Each Party should participate in the effect programmes of the Convention and report in accordance with the "Guidelines for reporting on the monitoring and modelling of air pollution effects" as approved by the Working Group on Effects and [adopted] by the Executive Body [at its twenty-sixth session (decision 2008/1) and any amendments thereto".

III. AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED BY THE UNITED STATES

Preamble, paragraph 5

Concerned also that emitted nitrogen oxides, sulphur, volatile organic compounds, [ammonia, and directly emitted particulate matter], as well as [secondarily-formed] pollutants such as ozone, [particulate matter], and the reaction products of ammonia, are transported in the atmosphere over long distances and may have adverse transboundary effects,"

Preamble, paragraph 7

“*Recognizing also* that Canada and the United States of America are bilaterally negotiating reductions of emissions of nitrogen oxides, [sulphur dioxide, and particulate matter] to address the transboundary [impacts of particulate matter.]”

Preamble, paragraph 8

“*Recognizing furthermore* that Canada is committed to achieving reductions of [sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds and particulate matter under air quality programmes to meet the Canada-wide standards for ozone and particulate matter and national objectives to reduce acidification and eutrophication], and that the United States is committed to the implementation of programmes to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, [sulphur dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter necessary] to: meet national ambient air quality standards for [ozone] and particulate matter; [to make continued progress in reducing acidification and eutrophication effects; and to improve visibility in national parks and urban areas alike],”

Preamble, paragraph 10

“*Taking into account* scientific knowledge about the hemispheric transport of air pollution, [the influence of the nitrogen cycle,] and the potential synergies and tradeoffs [between air pollution and] climate change,”

Preamble, paragraph 11

“*Aware* that emissions from shipping and aviation contribute significantly to adverse effects on health and the environment and [are important issues under consideration by the] International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Association,”

Article 2

OBJECTIVE

Option 2

The objective of the present Protocol is to control and reduce emissions of sulphur, nitrogen oxides, ammonia [and - delete], volatile organic compounds [and particulate matter] that are caused by anthropogenic activities and are likely to cause adverse effects on human

health, natural ecosystems, materials and crops, due to acidification, eutrophication [and particulate matter] or ground-level ozone as a result of long-range transboundary atmospheric transport. [For countries within the geographic scope of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)] the reductions of these substances should ensure that in 2050] [, and to ensure, as far as possible, that in the long term and in a stepwise approach, taking into account advances in scientific knowledge, - delete] atmospheric depositions or concentrations do not exceed:

(a) For Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP and Canada, the critical loads of acidity, as described in annex I;

(b) For Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP, the critical loads of nutrient nitrogen, as described in annex I;

(c) For ozone [particulate matter]:

(i) For Parties within the geographical scope of EMEP, the critical levels of ozone [and particulate matter], as given in annex I;

(ii) For Canada, the Canada-wide Standard for ozone [and particulate matter];

(iii) For the United States of America, the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone [and particulate matter].

2. [For countries within the geographic scope of EMEP] indicative national emission ceilings for 2050 for which critical levels and critical loads are not exceeded are given in annex II. These national emission ceilings are aspirational and non-binding.

Article 3

BASIC OBLIGATIONS

[12. Each Party [within the geographic scope of EMEP] should participate in the effect programmes of the Convention and report in accordance with the “Guidelines for reporting on the monitoring and modelling of air pollution effects” as approved by the Working Group on Effects and endorsed by the Executive Body.]

Article 8

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

The Parties shall encourage research, development, monitoring and cooperation related to:

(d) The improvement of the scientific understanding of:

(i) The long-term fate of emissions and their impact on the hemispheric background concentrations of sulphur, nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, ozone and particulate matter, [with particular focus] on the chemistry of the free troposphere and the potential for intercontinental flow of pollutants; [and

(ii) The potential co-benefits for climate change mitigation associated with potential reduction scenarios for air pollutants (such as black carbon, methane, and carbon monoxide) which have near-term radiative forcing effects.]
