

Decision 2010/17
Establishment of a coordinating group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

The Executive Body

Recognizing the low level of ratifications of the Convention Protocols, inter alia, the Protocol on Heavy Metals, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, by countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the insufficient level of participation by those countries in Convention-related activities,

Noting that countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia occupy extensive territories and substantially contribute to the overall atmospheric air pollution of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region,

Noting also that a large group of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia have a common heritage and are similar in terms of the current level of social and economic development and related environmental problems,

Considering the relevant provisions of the Revised Action Plan for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17) on raising the political profile of Convention activities in the region, and encouraging ratification of the above-mentioned Protocols,

Underlining the separate capacity-building and awareness-raising efforts by subsidiary bodies and programmes of the Convention for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and related positive outcomes of these actions,

Highlighting the recently increased participation of certain countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the work within the Convention,

Considering the importance of the initiative proposed by Belarus and supported by the Russian Federation on the establishment of a separate body within the Convention using Russian as the main working language to focus on the Convention-related problems of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with larger involvement of the Russian-speaking experts from the region;

1. *Establishes* a Coordinating Group on promotion of actions towards implementation of the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, under the leadership of the Russian Federation, in accordance with a respective mandate to:

(a) Review the current work on implementation of the Convention's separate mechanisms and approaches in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and to assess the lessons learned;

(b) Promote the implementation of the Convention and its mechanism on the air quality management in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia through information exchange and capacity-building;

(c) Assess, jointly with other relevant bodies of the Convention, the costs and benefits of prospective accession to the latest Protocols by countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

- (d) Develop and maintain the information databases on scientific, technical and policy documentation related to the Convention in the Russian language;
 - (e) Develop and implement joint projects aiming at accession of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to the latest protocols of the Convention;
 - (f) Elaborate joint recommendations on strategic issues of the Convention.
 - (g) Facilitate relevant actions aimed at alleviation of uncertainty in emission estimation of acidifying, eutrophying and persistent organic pollutants, as well as heavy metals, by means of instrumental measurements;
2. *Decides* that the lead country will assume the principal responsibility for coordinating the work of this Coordinating Group, for organizing its meetings, for designating its chair(s), for communications with participating experts, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the workplan;
3. *Also decides* that the Coordinating Group will carry out the tasks specified for it in the workplan adopted annually by the Executive Body and will report thereon to the Executive Body;
4. *Accepts* Russian as the main working language of the Coordinating Group, albeit, reserves English as the second working language;
5. *Requests* other subsidiary bodies and programme centres under the Convention that are interested in cooperation to participate actively in the work of the Coordinating Group;
6. *Urges* Parties to the Convention to nominate experts for the Coordinating Group and to inform the secretariat and the lead country of their names as soon as possible.
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