

**NOTE OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU
TO THE EXECUTIVE BODY FOR THE CONVENTION
Sunday 29 April 2012, 19.00 hours
Hotel Eden, Rue de Lausanne 135, Geneva**

1. Revision of the Gothenburg Protocol

The Chair opened the meeting outlining the main agenda items for discussion. The Chair supported by the secretariat informed about the final preparations for the thirtieth session of the Executive Body. The Bureau discussed the outstanding issues in the negotiations like: specific provisions/flexibilities for the Parties in Eastern Europe, the Caucuses and Central Asia (EECCA), the format and content of Annex II, (the need for) an adjustment procedure, definition of a new source and the annex VII on mobile sources.

2. Proposal by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for adjustment to annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol

The Bureau discussed the Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia circulated by the Secretariat on 1 February 2012. The issue is to be taken up at the 36 EMEP SB and 50 WGSR in September 2012. The Executive Body will consider the proposal by Macedonia for an amendment to Annex II at its 31 session in December 2012.

3. UNECE activities aimed at promoting the Convention on LRTAP in EECCA countries

The secretariat and representative of the European Commission informed the Bureau about recent efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of the Convention, particularly in Central Asia with the assistance of the EECCA Coordinating Group led by Russian Federation. The Coordinating Group hold its meeting in St. Petersburg in April 2012 with the view to work out a common position of the EECCA countries with respect to the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol. The main issues discussed were the technical annexes (emission limit values for new and existing installations) as well as timelines of their implementation.

The secretariat informed about a new project to be carried by ECE in cooperation with the Russian Federation. Five high-level missions to Central Asia are planned later this to raise the profile of ECE's Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) with a focus on transboundary air pollution issues and the LRTAP Convention.

4. Demands on the secretariat and status of its resources

The secretariat informed about the current status of its resources and ongoing recruitments process for two professional posts at the LRTAP secretariat. One of the post is to be an extrabudgetary post financed from external source. So far Canada and Norway provided financial resources to UNECE to help establish such a post. Among the five environmental conventions hosted by UN ECE, LRTAP is the only which has not yet had an extrabudgetary posts. Belgium and the European Commission informed that they investigate if they could contribute to finance the post. The position of the EC could be known later in summer 2012.

5. Other business

Chair of WGSR raised the issue of the guidance document for the heavy metals and expressed concern whether it would be feasible to submit this document in time as there are only two weeks between the 50th WGSR session and the deadline for submission of official documents for the 31st session of the Executive Body. The secretariat informed about the possibility to adopt the document as an English only document (same approach was applied for the CORINAIR Guidebook). The Chair noted that the mandate should be given to the Ad-hoc Group of legal experts elaborate this document (as a draft decision + attached document).

The Chair noted that constructive and mutually respectful cooperation between the bodies under the Convention and the secretariat is essential to effectively forward the joint efforts and achieve the expected accomplishments in terms of reducing the negative effects of air pollution on human health and the environment. He turned to all those involved to translate this intention into common practice..

6. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Bureau decided to hold its next meeting upon the completion of the 50 session of WGSR on 14 September 2012. The Chair closed the meeting.