

NOTE OF THE BUREAU MEETING
Monday, 10 December 2012
Salle VIII, Palais des Nations

***1. Preparations for the 11-13 December 2012 (31st) session of the Executive Body
and Revision of the Protocol on Heavy Metals***

The Chair opened the meeting and, supported by the secretariat, outlined the key issues for discussion during the forthcoming session of the Executive Body and availability of documents for the meeting. The Bureau exchanged views on the proposed organization of work and sequence of agenda items.

The Chair briefed the Bureau about the candidates nominated for election at the session, namely the Chairs of the Executive Body, the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR), the Implementation Committee as well as the members of the Committee. The Chair explained that since two candidates had been nominated to chair the WGSR, the Parties could try to reach consensus outside the plenary, otherwise there would be a vote. The Chair of the Implementation Committee informed about the proposal to postpone - for two years - the date of entry into force of the rule recommended for adoption by the Executive Body that each member of the Committee shall be a Party to at least one of the three latest Protocols: on Heavy Metals, on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), thus allowing for Parties that had not yet ratified any of the above-mentioned protocols to put forth candidates eligible for election to the Committee. The proposal was supported by members of the Bureau given that this could be an additional incentive for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to join these protocols. The Bureau decided to hold all the elections under the agenda item "elections" during the session of the Executive Body, beginning with the election of members of the Implementation Committee.

2. *Conclusions and recommendations by the ad-hoc group of experts (LTS Action Plan), and*
3. *Preparations for the 2014-15 workplan under the Convention and possible modifications to the 2012-2013 workplan*

The Chair indicated that the time available at the Executive Body session would not be sufficient to address the above mentioned issues, in light of the priority to finalize negotiations on the Protocol on Heavy Metals. He proposed to defer the discussion on the recommendations by the ad-hoc group of experts and the preparation for the 2014-2015 workplan to 2013, when the WGSR could consider these at its session, and then the Executive Body would decide in December. The European Commission pointed to the need for introduction of a new item in the current workplan, namely further work on the guidance document for mobile sources.” In fact, there was no modification to the workplan by the 31 EB.

Action: the secretariat, in cooperation with the WGSR Chair, would include the above-mentioned items on the agenda of WGSR-51 for discussion

4. *UNECE activities aimed at promoting the LRTAP Convention in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia*

The secretariat informed the Bureau about its recent missions to Central Asia conducted jointly with the Chair of the Coordinating Group for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) to discuss the status of implementation and ratification, existing challenges and their possible solutions. The secretariat noted the interest expressed by the national authorities in developing national action plans for ratification and implementation and their request for support in elaborating those action plans. The final report was planned to be shared at a later stage upon completion of the last mission. The Chair of the Implementation Committee emphasized the importance of involvement of the Convention’s technical bodies in elaboration of the action plans. The Russian Federation pointed to the planned high-level meeting as a forum where the action plans could be presented and relevant statements by the countries be made. The European Commission informed about additional resources provided to the secretariat to support its work in this direction.

5. *Cooperation with other organizations*

The secretariat informed about the possibility for ECE as the institution hosting CLRTAP to join the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) hosted by UNEP as a non-state partner, following up on the request by the ad-hoc group of experts to explore possibilities... Bureau members exchanged views on the options and possible benefits with regard to joining with the Coalition, concluding that in general it would be useful to interact with the Coalition; however, possible resource implications and the modalities of such interaction would need to be further explored.

Action: by the next Bureau meeting the secretariat would prepare a paper outlining different options on interactions with the CCAC.

6. *Demands on the secretariat and status of its resources*

The secretariat informed the Bureau about the current status of its staff resources.

7. *Organization of work and meetings in 2013*

The Bureau agreed that the next WGSR session should take place in spring (30 April – 3 May 2013) to avoid overlap with other meetings in September and to re-distribute the workload with regard to meeting preparation and reporting to the EB throughout the year. The European Union proposed to hold the high-level meeting on improved air quality in the EECCA countries as a one-day event in conjunction with the thirty-second session of the Executive Body scheduled for 9-13 December 2013.

8. *Other business*

The United States expressed concern about the length of the report of the thirtieth session of the Executive Body, noting that it only provided a brief summary of decisions and did not contain background information on negotiations for possible needs of future generations. The secretariat reminded about the request by member States to reduce the length of official documents and, at the same time, noted existing flexibility to include the necessary text, if Parties decided so.

The Russian Federation underscored the need for the final consolidated text of the revised Gothenburg Protocol to be available in Russian together with the text of relevant Executive Body decisions. The Bureau agreed that the Executive Body should mandate the secretariat to issue an official document containing the text of the Protocol as amended.

Action: the secretariat will prepare a consolidated text of the Gothenburg Protocol and submit for translation as an official document, as per the request of the Executive Body.

9. *Date, time and place of next meeting*

The Bureau agreed to conduct its next meeting at the end of the next WGSR session - on 3 May 2013.

The Chair closed the meeting.