Executive Body of the LRTAP Convention, 30th session

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Second session
of
the Coordinating Group on promotion of actions towards implementation
of the LRTAP Convention in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
(EECCA Coordinating group)
18 April 2012
Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation

DECISIONS

On its second session the EECCA Coordinating Group attended by Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine has drawn the following decisions:

a) Agenda item “Elaborating the coordinated position at the 30th session of the UNECE LRTAP Convention’s Executive Body regarding the Gothenburg Protocol”:

i) Propose an addition to the Gothenburg Protocol which would allow its gradual (step-by-step) ratification for countries with economies in transition (CET) with basic obligations regarding emission reporting and national emission ceilings, yet with reservations on (limited) application of measures outlined in the technical annexes;

ii) Propose to remove from Annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol references (emission reduction targets) to countries that are not parties to the current Protocol; discuss the procedure of ratification of the Protocol in order to ensure that as the time of ratification of the Protocol by a party the latter shall not be obliged to negotiate on its national emission ceilings (emission reduction targets) with other parties to the Protocol;

iii) Propose an addition to the Gothenburg Protocol that shall enable new parties to submit their national emission ceilings (emission reduction targets) at the time of ratification; and also shall provide parties an opportunity to adjust its obligations on emission reductions in case change of methodologies and/or new source categories are identified (in line with elements of the respective proposal of the United States);

iv) Propose an addition to the Gothenburg Protocol or one of its annexes that shall provide CET parties an opportunity to submit national emission reports covering large point sources only for pollutants that were not previously reported on for a period of 5 years after ratification of the Protocol for a party;

v) Discuss and provisionally support the proposal on definition of “new stationary sources” developed by the European Union (informal document no.12);

vi) Discuss and provisionally support the proposal of Switzerland and the European Union to shift revision of Annex IX to a later date and remove provisional references to national nitrogen balances from the current versions of the text of the Gothenburg Protocol;

b) Agenda item “Suggestions to the EECCA Action Plan for 2012-2014 and to the Action plan for the implementation of the Long-term Strategy of the LRTAP Convention”:

vii) Add item (c) to section I “Improve ratification and compliance” as follows: Develop a comprehensive roadmap as an information support document on preparations to ratification of the protocols to the Convention and on planning for further relevant actions; carry out a higher officials meeting of the EECCA and SEE region to be held in 2013 at UNECE in Geneva to discuss the roadmap and a wider range of regional transboundary air pollution issues and ways to improve respective cooperation;
viii) Amend sub-item (b), item 5 of the Section II as follows: Encourage the widest possible participation of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe in the science programme for the Convention, as already specified in the Action Plan for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, with a view to obtaining reliable emission data and to developing monitoring and modeling networks throughout the region [through the following actions]:

a. Recommend subsidiary bodies (including task forces and expert groups) of the Convention to use Russian as the second working language;

b. Publish the Russian version of the EMEP/EEA Air Pollutant Emission Inventory Guidebook;

c. Translate into Russian language methodology documentation on estimation and analysis of particulate matter emissions (PM10 and PM2.5);

d. Develop a proposal concerning establishment of a regional center to support the work on emission inventories in the EECCA region as a subsidiary body (a branch) of the Center on Emission Inventories and Projections (Austria);

e. Develop a proposal on financial mechanisms to support reductions of transboundary air pollution in the EECCA region;

ix) Amend sub-item (b), item 10 of Section IV after words “…and on the development of guidelines for black carbon inventories.” as follows: [Translate relevant methodological documentation into Russian language];

x) Amend sub-item (a), item 12 of Section V “…at scientific as well as strategic/policy levels” as follows: [and establish an annual meeting with participation of EECCA regional representatives to discuss issues of transboundary air pollution and relevant regional cooperation initiatives]; sub-item (b) should read the following:

(b) Revise and update the draft Communication Strategy from 2003 (London) to help increase the visibility of the Convention and raise political awareness of air pollution issues in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. For example, this could include developing and implementing a plan to translate promotional and guidance documents into Russian for the EECCA region [and establishment an annual consultative meeting (seminar) to discuss issues related to transboundary air pollution issues specific for EECCA countries]. The strategy should also highlight work under the Convention on air pollution and climate change co-benefits.

c) Development of technical cooperation:

d) Express its gratitude to the European Commission, the UNECE LRTAP Convention Secretariat, the Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues under the LRTAP Convention and the Russian Federation for their expert and financial support.

Chairperson of the Coordinating Group
Mr. Andrey Nedre

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Mr. Alexander Romanov