

Decision 2013/22

Report of the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention

The Executive Body,

Recognizing that the Long-term Strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/18, annex); provides a strategic road map for the Convention and that the structure and functioning of the Convention should complement that road map,

Further recognizing the valuable contributions of the Convention's main and subsidiary bodies to the work of the Convention,

Recalling its decision 2011/14 on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention (see ECE/EB.AIR/109/Add.1), which created an ad hoc group of experts to undertake several tasks in the Action Plan,

Noting with appreciation the report by the ad hoc group of experts on items in the Action Plan,

1. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to propose for review by the Executive Body at its thirty-third session an update to the mandate of the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues to establish a task force to address emission abatement techniques for stationary and mobile sources in relation to atmospheric emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and particulate matter (PM), including black carbon, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs);

2. *Decides* to discontinue the Network of Experts on the Benefits of Economic Instruments, while noting with appreciation its work and dedication over the years and inviting its experts to participate in the work of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling;

3. *Also decides* to discontinue the Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants, recognizing that any further work should be organized under ad hoc expert groups when the need arises or under the proposed new Task Force on Techno-economic Issues;

4. *Further decides* to follow the approach laid out in paragraph 13 of the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/110) concerning future work on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals as set out in the annex to this decision.

Annex

Further work on persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals

The Working Group considered further work on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and heavy metals, taking into account the review, findings and recommendations by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-Term Strategy under the Convention. It welcomed the recommendations of the expert group concerning further work on POPs and heavy metals (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15, paras. 27–35), acknowledging that it might be appropriate at a later time to address other

recommendations not addressed below. The Working Group recommended the following for the Executive Body's consideration:

(a) With regard to future Action under the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants:

(i) Before proposing a new substance for listing under the Protocol, Parties should consider first nominating that substance under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention);

(ii) Parties should consider the results of any such nomination under the Stockholm Convention, as well as the potential added value to the protection of environment and human health in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, in evaluating the need for future action under the Protocol;

(iii) Parties should generally consider additional action¹ under the Protocol on POPs, including amendments thereto if:

a. The substance was listed under the Stockholm Convention but stricter measures in the ECE region were warranted;

b. The substance was not listed under the Stockholm Convention, e.g., because no agreement could be reached on listing it or because negotiations under the Stockholm Convention had become protracted;

(iv) Recognizing that both the Protocol on POPs and the Stockholm Convention included obligations relating to best available techniques (BAT) for controlling sources of unintentionally produced POPs, in the future Parties should consider, inter alia, paragraph 31 of document ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15 and paragraph 7 (b) of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention;

(b) With regard to future action under the Protocol on Heavy Metals:

(i) Parties to the Convention should focus their efforts with respect to the Protocol on Heavy Metals on full implementation and further ratifications of the Protocol, including its amendments adopted through Executive Body decisions 2012/5 and 2012/6 (see ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1);

(ii) Parties should consider, before proposing to add a product control measure or product or product group or to make other amendments to the Protocol related to mercury, the latest scientific knowledge on their effects on human health and ecosystems, and the potential benefits beyond those provided by the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention). In particular Parties should consider, with respect to any future potential amendments relating to mercury:

a. Whether the Minamata Convention addressed the topic of the potential amendment;

b. To what extent such a potential amendment would deliver increased health and environmental protection beyond those that could be envisioned from implementation of the Minamata Convention;

c. Whether, presuming the topic were addressed:

¹ Parties should generally refrain from making use of the nominating process under article 14 of the Protocol outside of the above listed circumstances.

- i. More stringent requirements were needed in the ECE region;
 - ii. Earlier regional action was required compared to timelines for global measures, where such measures existed;
- (iii) The Working Group recommended continuing the work of the Task Force on Heavy Metals in 2014 on technical assistance to Parties in the region of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in implementing the Protocol on Heavy Metals as amended. It also recommended that future work as of 2015 on abatement techniques for reducing emissions of heavy metals be addressed under the proposed new Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues.
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