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Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Thirty-second session

Geneva, 9–13 December 2013

Report of the Executive Body on its thirty-second session

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I. Introduction

1. The thirty-second session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was held from 9 to 13 December 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. The decisions adopted by the Executive Body at the session can be found in an addendum to the present report (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1).

A. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union (EU), Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

3. The following States not Parties to the Convention were represented: Japan and Uzbekistan. Representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) also attended. In addition, the Coordinating Center for Effects (CCE), the European Environmental Bureau, the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (Sweden) and the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) were represented.

B. Organizational matters

4. Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom) chaired the meeting. The Director of the Environment Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) welcomed the participants.

5. The Executive Body adopted the agenda for its thirty-second session, as set out in document ECE/EB.AIR/121.

6. Before adopting the previous session's meeting report, the delegation of the United States proposed to delete the last sentence of its paragraph 61.

7. The Executive Body adopted the report of its thirty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/113 and Add.1 and 2), as amended, and requested the secretariat to issue a corrigendum and to post it on the website for the Executive Body's thirty-first session.

II. Amendments to the rules of procedure

8. The secretariat noted that at the current session the Executive Body was expected to adopt an amendment to the annex to the Protocol on Long-term Financing of EMEP (EMEP Protocol). In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/19, annex), for the adoption of amendments to Protocols, Parties should be in possession of credentials issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the minister of foreign affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization.

9. The Executive Body considered a proposal (informal document No. 15) to amend the rules of procedure adopted in 2010, and in particular rule 13, in order to clarify that the credentials required for the adoption of amendments to the annex to the EMEP Protocol and adjustments to other protocols need not be issued by the Head of State or the minister of foreign affairs.

10. The Executive Body subsequently adopted decision 2013/1 amending the rules of procedure with immediate effect.

III. Report on credentials

11. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, delegations were invited to submit their credentials to the secretariat within 24 hours after the opening of the session. The officers of the session reported that 34 Parties to the Convention were present with credentials. Of those, 29 credentials had been issued by ministers of foreign affairs or by Heads of State or Government; however, it was noted that, in view of decision 2013/1 just adopted, that distinction was no longer relevant. The Executive Body adopted the report on credentials.

IV. Matters arising from meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings

12. The secretariat informed participants that, at its sixty-fifth session (Geneva, 9–11 April 2013), ECE had adopted the Outcome of the review of the 2005 ECE reform (E/ECE/1468). It noted that the Environment Subprogramme was not affected by the cuts in staff recommended in that document, and as a consequence of the overall budget cuts requested by the Secretary-General in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 67/248 of 24 December 2012. At the same time, it was not foreseen that the subprogramme would receive any additional staff, despite growing demands for services from the member States.

13. At its nineteenth session, in October 2013, the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) had emphasized the need to increase the human resources allocated to the subprogramme from the regular budget of the United Nations. Also at that session, CEP had concluded a mid-term review of the “Environment for Europe” process and agreed to organize the Eighth “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference in 2016. The issues to be highlighted at the next conference might include MEAs.

V. Review of implementation of the 2012–2013 workplan

A. Strategies and policies

14. The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review reported on the implementation of relevant issues under item 1 of the 2012–2013 workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/109/Add.2). He drew attention to the exchange of information, experiences and good practices that had been initiated to promote the implementation of the protocols and facilitate accession and ratification, in particular by the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

15. The Executive Body took note of the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

16. The delegation of the United States introduced a proposal for a draft decision on reporting on strategies, policies and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its protocols (informal document No. 17).

17. The secretariat drew attention to a note scrutinizing the provisions of the Convention and protocols, setting out reporting requirements as well as associated Executive Body decisions (informal document No. 14), which it had prepared at the request of the Bureau. The Executive Body adopted decision 2013/2 on reporting on strategies, policies and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its protocols.

18. The delegation of Sweden briefed the Executive Body on the outcomes of the “Saltjobaden V” workshop, “Taking international air pollution policies into the future” (Gothenburg, Sweden, 24–26 June 2013). The Executive Body took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the “Saltsjobaden V” workshop.

B. Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe

19. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body presented the results of the thirty-seventh session of the EMEP Steering Body (Geneva, Switzerland, 9–11 September 2013), and reported on the implementation of item 2 of the 2012–2013 workplan.

20. The EMEP Chair presented the draft revised Guidelines for Reporting Emissions and Projections Data under the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2013/7). The guidelines as revised by the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections and agreed by the EMEP Steering Body would ensure the improved emission inventories needed for future assessment and modelling work in line with the requirements of the amended Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol). Some Parties expressed the view that the revised guidelines should not go beyond the reporting requirements set out in the protocols currently in force. Modifications for adjusting the guidelines to that effect were proposed and discussed.

21. The EMEP Steering Body Chair also presented a proposal for funding the adjustment procedure under the Gothenburg Protocol to emission reduction commitments or to inventories (Informal document No. 12).

22. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the information presented by the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body on the outcome of the Steering Body’s thirty-seventh session;

(b) Adopted decision 2013/3 on the adoption of Guidelines for Reporting Emissions and Projections Data under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

(c) Adopted decision 2013/4 on reporting of emissions and projections data under the Convention and its protocols in force.

C. Effects of major air pollutants on human health and the environment

23. The Chair of the Working Group on Effects presented the results of the Working Group's thirty-second session (Geneva, 12–13 September 2013), and reported on the implementation of item 3 of the 2012–2013 workplan.

24. The Working Group Chair highlighted the key outcomes and reports published in 2013, including a study on exposure of modern glass and soiling dose-response functions by the International Cooperative Programme (ICP) on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments..

25. The Chair of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution presented the main findings of the Review of evidence on health aspects of air pollution (REVIHAAP) project, carried out by WHO in support of the current revision of EU air quality policies and legislation.

26. The Chair of the ICP on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ICP Vegetation) Task Force presented the report on heavy metals and nitrogen in mosses: spatial patterns in 2010/11 and long-term temporal trends (1990–2010) in Europe (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2013/13), and the report on the benefits of air pollution control for biodiversity and ecosystem services (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2013/14).

27. The Chair of the Working Group on Effects presented a draft outline for an assessment report on the Convention's achievements and future prospects, prepared by the Chairs of the Executive Body, the Working Group on Strategies and Review, the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects. After further discussion at a joint Bureaux meeting in March 2014,^tThe final outline and organization of work would be presented at the meetings of the main subsidiary bodies and the Executive Body in 2014, and a draft report was expected to be presented at the December 2015 session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. Support for the work should be provided from the trust fund for EMEP and the effects-related activities. The Executive Body also welcomed financial and in-kind support from Parties for that work.

28. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the information presented by the Chair of the Working Group on Effects on the outcome of the Working Group's thirty-second session;

(b) Took note of the presentation by the Chair of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution, led by WHO, on the latest developments in research on air pollution effects on health;

(c) Took note of the presentation by ICP Vegetation of two reports, on heavy metals and nitrogen in mosses and on the benefits of air pollution control for biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(d) Approved the outline of an assessment report (informal document No. 13) on the Convention's achievements and prospects for the future, to be prepared in the framework of the 2014–2015 workplan.

VI. 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

29. The secretariat introduced the draft 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention presented in document ECE/EB.AIR/2013/6. Following a detailed

discussion of the draft workplan, including a number of proposals for amendments and modifications to it, the Executive Body adopted the 2014–2015 workplan as amended (see ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2).

30. Furthermore, the Executive Body:

(a) In the light of additional extrabudgetary funding made available by a number of Parties to further support the efforts of countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to accede and implement the Convention and its three most recent protocols, took note of the secretariat's readiness to continue managing the assistance activities within an already existing ECE technical cooperation project;

(b) Welcomed the secretariat's intention to be advised by recipient countries — through the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Coordinating Group) — as well as by Parties providing their contributions with regard to assistance activities to be carried out, in order to ensure transparency and efficiency, as well as effectiveness.

31. The Executive Body agreed to introduce a template for the preparation of official reports by task forces and expert groups in order to improve consistency and highlight relevant policy and scientific facts and findings, as proposed by the Bureau (informal document No. 18). The template would be annexed to the 2014–2015 workplan and experiences with its use would be reviewed by the Bureau.

VII. Compliance with protocol obligations

32. A member of the Implementation Committee, on behalf of the Committee Chair, presented the results of the Committee's work in 2013, as contained in its sixteenth report (ECE/EB.AIR/2013/3), the report on compliance with emission reduction obligations (ECE/EB.AIR/2013/4) and the recommendations to the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2013/5).

33. The Chair thanked the secretariat for supporting the Implementation Committee in its work, including through the creation of an area for reference documents on the Implementation Committee section of the Convention website.

34. The secretariat drew attention to informal document No. 8, which provided background information on emission reporting obligations and outlined the secretariat's rationale and follow-up action with regard to Parties in potential non-compliance. A new approach to compliance review had been introduced by the secretariat in 2013, enhancing the secretariat's role in line with paragraph 5 of the annex to decision 2012/25 (see ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1), which stipulated that the secretariat should promptly initiate correspondence with the Party concerned where it became aware of possible non-compliance by a Party with any of its obligations upon the review of information received from a technical body or centre under the Convention. The secretariat had been able to implement that new approach, comprising also the review of Parties' compliance with reporting obligations, thanks to the support of extrabudgetary resources.

35. The secretariat further informed the Executive Body that, at the Committee's request, it had prepared templates for the preparation of the Implementation Committee's reports and draft recommendations.

36. Several delegations and the secretariat highlighted updated or new information which had become available after the thirty-second meeting of the Implementation Committee. The Executive Body agreed to take that information into consideration when

adopting decisions with regard to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Cyprus and Latvia.

37. A representative of Latvia presented information on its non-compliance as requested by the Executive Body at its thirty-first session.

38. With regard to the draft decision concerning compliance by the Netherlands with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs) recommended by the Committee, a representative of the Netherlands questioned the Committee's conclusion that the Netherlands had failed to demonstrate that it should benefit from the exemption under article 3, paragraph 7, of the Protocol. Norway, referring to its own experience, encouraged the Netherlands to continue its dialogue with the Implementation Committee on the issue of what documentation was needed to verify that the criteria for the exemption under article 3, paragraph 7, were met, and to accept the Committee's invitation to attend its meeting. Based on a Norwegian proposal, the Executive Body adopted the decision while deleting paragraphs 2 and 3 from the the Committee's recommendation.

39. A representative of Denmark provided information on the evolution of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) emissions, with respect to Denmark's compliance with the Protocol on POPs. She proposed that paragraph 7 of the Committee's recommended draft decision concerning compliance by Denmark with the Protocol be deleted. The proposal was supported by Switzerland. The Belgian member of the Implementation Committee, speaking on behalf of the Committee Chair, objected to the proposed deletion in the light of Denmark's long-standing non-compliance. The Executive Body Chair recalled that, while the Implementation Committee made recommendations it was the Executive Body that made the decisions with regard to compliance by Parties. The delegation of the United States also objected to the proposed deletion . It was noted that the United States was not a Party to the Protocol on POPs. The Executive Body agreed with a reformulation proposed by Canada in which the Executive Body welcomed the information provided by Denmark, while cautioning that stronger measures would be considered should Denmark fail to provide a detailed report.

40. Furthermore, the representative of Denmark informed the Executive Body about its intended application of the adjustment procedure for the ammonia ceiling, which it had communicated to the secretariat with respect to the draft decision concerning compliance by Denmark with the Gothenburg Protocol. The secretariat confirmed that it had received the information requested to be sent by 31 March 2014.

41. A representative of the Republic of Moldova informed the Executive Body about the country's efforts to comply with its obligations under the Protocols on Heavy Metals and POPs, including timely reporting, despite difficulties faced in terms of legislation and resources, and requested assistance for the training of experts in that connection.

42. The Executive Body adopted:

(a) Decision 2013/5 concerning compliance by Cyprus with the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their transboundary Fluxes (ref. 1/08) and the Protocol on Heavy Metals (ref. 1/10 (Cadmium));

(b) Decision 2013/6 concerning compliance by Greece with the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (ref. 2/02);

(c) Decision 2013/7 concerning compliance by Spain with the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (ref. 6/02);

- (d) Decision 2013/8 concerning compliance by Denmark with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 1/06 (PAH));
- (e) Decision 2013/9 concerning compliance by Iceland with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 6/10 (PAH));
- (f) Decision 2013/10 concerning compliance by Luxembourg with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 14/13 (hexachlorobenzene (HCB)));
- (g) Decision 2013/11 concerning compliance by the Republic of Moldova with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 14/10 (PAH, dioxins/furans));
- (h) Decision 2013/12 concerning compliance by the Netherlands with the Protocol on Persistent Organic pollutants (ref.16/13 (HCB));
- (i) Decision 2013/13 concerning compliance by Denmark with the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (ref.3/13 (ammonia (NH₃)));
- (j) Decision 2013/14 concerning compliance by the European Union with the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (ref.5/13 (nitrogen oxides (NO_x)));
- (k) Decision 2013/15 concerning compliance by Finland with the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (ref.6/13 (NH₃));
- (l) Decision 2013/16 concerning compliance by Luxembourg with the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (ref.13/13 (NO_x));
- (m) Decision 2013/17 concerning compliance by the European Union, Latvia and the Russian Federation with their obligations to report on strategies and policies;
- (n) Decision 2013/18 concerning compliance by Albania, Croatia, Liechtenstein, Norway, Romania, the Russian Federation and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with their obligations to report annual emission data;
- (o) Decision 2013/19 concerning compliance by Croatia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with their obligations to report gridded emission data;
- (p) Decision 2013/20 concerning compliance by the European Union with its obligations to report projections;
- (q) Decision 2013/21 concerning compliance by Luxembourg with its reporting obligations.

VIII. Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention

43. At its thirty-first session the Executive Body had decided to defer the in-depth discussion on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention to the fifty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review in May 2013. Furthermore, it established a time-limited ad hoc group of experts to exclusively review the ICPs with a view to making recommendations, as outlined in paragraph 23 of the report of the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15).

44. The Chair of the Working Group on Effects presented the key messages of the report on the review of the ICPs (see ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2013/2, para. 35).

45. The Executive Body discussed the optimal sequencing of meetings of the Executive Body and the main subsidiary bodies in an annual cycle of work to ensure the most recent results of the scientific work flowed into policy considerations under the Convention. It was proposed that, for an optimal science-policy flow of information, EMEP and the Working Group on Effects would hold a joint meeting in September, the Working Group on Strategies and Review would meet in December and the Executive Body in spring/early summer the following year.

46. The Executive Body agreed that the timing of meetings of the Implementation Committee and the preparation of recommendations for the Executive Body's consideration could be accommodated to meet that new schedule.

47. The Executive Body:

(a) Welcomed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report prepared by the ad hoc group of experts led by Mr. A. Jenkins (United Kingdom) on the review of the ICPs (ECE/EB.AIR/2013/2), calling for improved functioning of the work of the ICPs, inter alia, in the form of integrated/thematic assessments, improved access to data via the web, more effective organization of the work and exploring ways to achieve a more stable long-term financing mechanism for the ICPs, all of which were reflected in the 2014–2015 workplan;

(b) Agreed that, as of 2015, the Working Group on Effects and the EMEP Steering Body should meet jointly, to achieve enhanced integration and cooperation between the Convention's two scientific subsidiary bodies;

(c) Decided that, in order to achieve an optimal science-policy flow of information, as of 2015 EMEP and the Working Group on Effects would hold a joint meeting in September and the Working Group on Strategies and Review would hold a meeting in December. The Executive Body would meet in the spring/early summer the following year;

(d) Adopted decision 2013/22 on the report of the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention.

48. The delegation of the United States and the secretariat presented informal document No. 10, a review of the recommendations on communication by the ad hoc group of experts on the implementation of the Action Plan (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15, paras. 57–59), as requested by the Working Group on Strategies and Review (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/110, para. 16). A number of delegations noted the need for prioritization among the recommendations in view of the limited resources available. With regard to the number of recommendations calling on the secretariat to develop communication materials, the delegation of the United States stressed that when developing materials the secretariat should base itself on the reports by subsidiary bodies and decisions taken by the Executive Body and not go beyond that. The Executive Body approved the recommendations of the ad hoc expert group with regard to communication as distilled by the delegation of the United States.

IX. Action Plan for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition

49. The Acting Chair of the Coordinating Group presented progress in the work of the Group and activities aimed at implementation of the revised action plan for Eastern Europe,

the Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2007/17) in 2013. Among other activities, a trilateral project with Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, funded through voluntary contributions of the Russian Federation to ECE, had been completed. The project had provided assistance to partner countries in setting the methodological and technical framework for building air pollutant emission inventories in accordance with requirements of the three most recent protocols in order to strengthen their further ratification and implementation. At the final stage of the project a workshop had been held to share information on the project outcomes. On a less positive note, the Acting Chair expressed regret that financial constraints had hampered the participation of the experts of the Coordinating Group in the Saltsjobaden V workshop and the organization of a Coordinating Group meeting and an Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues workshop in Saint Petersburg.

50. The secretariat presented information about its recent activities to strengthen the implementation and ratification of the Convention and its protocols in the region, and in particular in Central Asia, through high-level missions to five ECE member States and a workshop entitled "Particulate matter: the impact on health and development of national emission inventories", held in November 2013 in Uzbekistan.

51. The delegation of Belarus presented a project proposal to provide technical assistance to countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on methodological and practical issues in preparing emission inventories of POPs, heavy metals and solid particles (information document No. 11). The Acting Chair of the Coordinating Group supported the proposal. The Executive Body took note of it and welcomed the offer of the Russian Federation to consider providing partial funding for the project and that of Switzerland to consider supporting the emission inventory-related activities in countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan. The Executive Body invited other Parties providing contributions to support capacity-building activities in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and in particular the EU, to consider how specific elements of the proposal of Belarus could be implemented and to continue discussing further cooperation with the Coordinating Group, Belarus and the secretariat.

52. The delegation of Uzbekistan reported on its progress in reducing emissions of air pollutants and the ongoing cooperation with ECE on the preparatory work for its accession to the Convention's protocols. The delegation highlighted the results of the workshop held in November, and proposed areas for future cooperation, in particular on an analysis of the conformity of Uzbekistan's legislative, institutional and financial frameworks with the standards under the Convention, an assessment of the need to revise existing legislation and a cost-benefit analysis.

53. The delegation of Kazakhstan informed participants about its participation in previous capacity-building activities and the country's further needs for support in developing national emission inventories and revising existing norms and regulations in accordance with European standards.

54. The delegation of Kyrgyzstan reported on measures implemented in the country to reduce emissions, and expressed the need for support in developing national emission inventories and methodological guidance in Russian.

55. The Executive Body took note of the information provided by the delegations of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

X. Review and revision of Protocols

A. Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants

56. At its twenty-eighth session in December 2010, the Executive Body had taken note of the recommendations of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (see ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/102) on the five substances reviewed by the Task Force on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2010/8). Subsequently, the Executive Body had deferred the discussion on the issue until the fifty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review in May 2013.

57. Canada recalled the recommendation of the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-first session that, before proposing a new substance for listing under the Protocol on POPs, Parties should first consider nominating that substance under the Stockholm Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/110, para. 13). With respect to the five substances under consideration, endosulphan and hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) were already listed under the Stockholm Convention. The three remaining substances, notably pentachlorophenol/pentachloroanisole (PCP/PCA), dicofol and trifluralin, were under consideration for listing under the Stockholm Convention. Norway and the EU supported the proposal by Canada. The EU noted that there was no scientific consensus regarding trifluralin and proposed that the Executive Body reconsider the three substances currently not listed under the Stockholm Convention following the seventh Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in 2015.

58. The Executive Body:

(a) Decided that it would not further consider HBCD and endosulfan in view of their listing under the Stockholm Convention;

(b) Decided to defer the discussion of PCP/PCA, dicofol and trifluralin until after the seventh Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in 2015.

B. Guidance document to the amended Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

59. At its thirtieth session, the Executive Body had adopted amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol and its annexes (see ECE/EB.AIR/111/Add.1). In article 5, paragraph 1 (e), the amended Protocol referred to a guidance document on projected health and environmental improvements to be used by Parties in the EMEP domain in providing information to the public. The guidance document on health and environmental improvements using new knowledge, methods and data had subsequently been prepared by the Working Group on Effects and was before the Executive Body for its consideration (ECE/EB.AIR/2013/8).

60. The Chair of CCE presented the key elements of the guidance, focusing on the health and environmental improvements expected in 2020 and beyond compared with the base year 2005, once the emission reduction commitments specified in annex II of the amended Gothenburg Protocol were implemented.

61. The Executive Body adopted decision 2013/20 on adoption of the guidance document on health and environmental improvements using new knowledge, methods and data.

C. Proposals for adjustment to annex II to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

62. In accordance with article 13 of the Gothenburg Protocol, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro had submitted proposals to the the Executive Body at its the thirtieth and thirty-first sessions, respectively, to adjust annex II to the Protocol by adding to it their names, together with emission levels and emission ceilings. The proposals had been circulated to Parties to the Protocol at least 90 days in advance of the session at which they were to have been considered, in accordance with the article 13, paragraph 2.

63. At the thirtieth session of the Executive Body, Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol had decided to defer a decision on a proposed adjustment by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia until the Executive Body's thirty-first session. At the thirty-first session in December 2012, Parties to the Protocol had considered the proposals and requested both countries to submit revised proposals to the EMEP Steering Body, which was to review the proposals and make recommendations to the Executive Body at its thirty-second session in 2013.

64. In September 2013 a representative of Montenegro had informed the Steering Body that, owing to insufficient human and technical capacity, Montenegro was unable to respond to the Executive Body's request and had expressed the need for support with respect to national inventory development, gridding emissions and providing emission projections.

65. The Executive Body considered the revised proposal submitted by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the information provided by Montenegro and the respective recommendations of the EMEP Steering Body.

66. The Executive Body agreed to adjust annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol as requested by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and invited the secretariat to notify the United Nations Depositary accordingly, and to post the adjusted annex on the Convention website.

67. With regard to the adjustment proposed by Montenegro, the Executive Body decided to defer a decision on a proposed adjustment and invited the EMEP Steering Body and its Chair to continue the dialogue with the delegation of Montenegro with a view to providing the rationale behind its proposal for emission ceilings, and agreed to take up the adjustment proposal again at its thirty-third session in 2014.

D. Protocol on Heavy Metals

68. The secretariat reported that the amendments to the Protocol on Heavy Metals adopted by decisions 2012/5 and 2012/6 in December 2012 had been communicated to Parties on 11 October 2013 (C.N.709.2013.TREATIES-XXVII.1.1 and C.N.711.2013.TREATIES-XXVII.1.f), and that the United Nations Treaty Section had invited Parties to deposit their instruments of acceptance for the entry into force of the amendments. The amendments to annex III to the amended Protocol would become effective 90 days after the date of that communication, i.e., on 9 January 2014, for those Parties that had not submitted to the Depositary a notification in accordance with the provisions of article 13, paragraph 5, of the Protocol, provided that at least 16 Parties had not submitted such a notification.

E. 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions

69. The secretariat noted that, in accordance with article 11 of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (1994 Sulphur Protocol), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had submitted a proposal to adjust annex II to the Protocol by adding to it its name, together with emission levels, sulphur emission ceilings and percentage emission reductions. The proposal had been circulated to Parties to the Protocol at least 90 days in advance of the present session, at which it was to be considered, in accordance with the Protocol's article 11, paragraph 2.

70. The Executive Body agreed to adjust annex II of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol as requested by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and invited the secretariat to notify the United Nations Depository accordingly, and to post the text of the adjusted annex on the Convention website.

XI. Financial requirements for implementation of the Convention

71. The secretariat introduced the note on the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2013/1) and informed the Executive Body about the status of Parties' contributions to the trust funds for financing the implementation of the Convention and the expenditures in 2012 and 2013. The secretariat also drew attention to United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/238 of 24 December 2012 which introduced a new scale of assessments for 2013–2015.

72. The Executive Body took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the amount of contributions made by Parties to the trust fund for effects-oriented activities as of 30 November 2013 (\$562,494) and recommended to use the amount as a basis to co-fund the effects-oriented activities in 2014.

73. With respect to EMEP activities, the Executive Body:

(a) Adopted, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, of the EMEP Protocol and the 2013 United Nations scale of assessments, the revised annex, which now included Georgia, as set out in the annex to document ECE/EB.AIR/2013/1;

(b) Decided on the detailed use of resources in 2014 as set out in table 2 of document ECE/EB.AIR/2013/1, and on the scale of mandatory contributions as set out in table 3 of that document;

(c) Supported the Steering Body's call on the Parties to the EMEP Protocol to consider making additional voluntary contributions (in kind or in cash through the trust fund) to ensure that the work in 2014 could be accomplished as foreseen in the 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention;

(d) Requested the Steering Body, with the assistance of its Bureau, to present the details of the 2015 budget for approval by the Executive Body at its thirty-third session in 2014;

(e) Urged Parties that had not yet done so to pay their 2013 contributions in cash to the trust fund and, in 2014, to pay their contributions so that they reached the trust fund in the first half of the year;

(f) Requested Ukraine to take urgent action to finalize the project for establishing an EMEP monitoring site as an in-kind contribution to cover its long-standing arrears for 1996–2001 (equivalent to \$175,205).

74. With respect to effects-oriented activities, the Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the contributions made to the trust fund for effects-oriented activities for 2013, and welcomed the payments made, but also expressed disappointment at the lack of response by many Parties;

(b) Urged all Parties that had not yet done so to consider providing the recommended contributions to the trust fund for financing core activities without undue delay;

(c) Decided that the essential international coordination costs for financing the core activities of the Convention and its protocols, other than those covered by the EMEP Protocol, would be \$2,152,700 in 2014, and would provisionally be \$2,152,700 in 2015 and \$2,152,700 in 2016;

(d) Decided to apply the 2013 United Nations scale of assessments for use in calculating the recommended contributions for 2014 as set out in table 9 of document ECE/EB.AIR/2013/1;

(e) Invited the secretariat to provide the information on the amount of contributions made to trust fund for effects-oriented activities as of 30 November 2014 at the thirty-third session of the Executive Body, and to use the amount as a basis to co-fund the effects-oriented activities in 2015;

(f) Requested the secretariat to inform Parties of the recommended contributions to the trust fund to meet the 2014 budget, inviting them to make them as agreed in revised decision 2002/1;

(g) Encouraged the Parties to make the recommended contributions to the trust fund before 30 November each year;

(h) Noted with appreciation the essential support provided to the Convention and its bodies by lead countries, countries hosting coordinating centres and those organizing meetings, as well as countries that funded activities of their National Focal Centres/points and the active participation of national experts.

75. With respect to the trust fund for countries in transition, the Executive Body:

(a) Reiterated its support to that element of the work programme, the success in an enlarged implementation of the Convention in countries in transition of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia being crucial for the future of the Convention;

(b) Welcomed the contributions to the trust fund and to thanked those countries that had contributed;

(c) Approved the proposed budget for promotion and implementation of the Convention trust fund E112 of \$1,491,600 for 2013, and urged Parties to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

(d) Invited all Parties, but especially those that led task forces and expert groups, to promote activities such as special workshops in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and to collaborate with the secretariat in developing and carrying out such projects.

XII. Activities of bodies of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and international organizations relevant to the Convention

76. A representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided information on the Minamata Convention on Mercury, adopted in October 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan, as well as on future meetings of the intergovernmental negotiating committee.

77. A representative of the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative presented the major points of the report "On thin Ice: How Cutting Pollution Can Slow Warming and Save Lives", produced in cooperation with the World Bank

78. A representative of WMO provided information on WMO activities relevant to the Convention, focusing on recent developments within Global Atmosphere Watch.

79. The Executive Body took note of the information provided.

XIII. Election of officers

80. The Chair reminded delegations that at its twenty eighth-session (Geneva, 13–17 December 2010), the Executive Body had re-elected two Implementation Committee members for a second and third consecutive term of two years, respectively. At its twenty-ninth session (Geneva, 12–16 December 2011), the Executive Body had elected two new members for a term of two years and re-elected two members for a second consecutive term, one member for a third and another member for a fifth consecutive term. At its thirty-first session in December 2012, the Executive Body had elected one new member to the Implementation Committee for a term of two years. Due to the withdrawal of one candidate and the rejection of another, the Executive Body prolonged the term of office of those members that had been re-elected at its twenty-eighth session in December 2010 by one year. Those elected or re-elected at the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions had completed their terms of office. The members whose mandate had been prolonged by the Executive Body at its thirty-first session had also completed their term of office. The Executive Body was therefore expected to elect eight members to the Committee.

81. The secretariat informed participants of the 11 nominations received for members of the Implementation Committee from Austria, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, France, Hungary, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

82. The Executive Body:

(a) Noted that Norway (Ms. A. Gaustad) would remain on the Implementation Committee for another year;

(b) Re-elected Austria (Mr. M. Ritter) and France (Mr. E. Fiani) for a second term and Germany (Mr. M. Schroeder) for a sixth term on the implementation Committee;

(c) Elected Canada (Mr. J. Burnett), Hungary (Ms. D. Kiss), the Republic of Moldova (Ms. M. Bors), Romania (Mr. F. Zaharia) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Ms. A. Nestorovska-Krsteska) for a first term on the Implementation Committee;

(d) Elected Mr. M. Schroeder (Germany) as Chair of the Implementation Committee.

83. The Chair recalled that, at its twenty-eighth session, the Executive Body had elected three Vice-Chairs for a term of three years. At its thirty-first session in December 2012, it had elected a Chair for a term of two years. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, it had also elected a Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review for a term of two years. In accordance with rule 17 of its rules of procedure, at its present session the Executive Body was expected to elect three vice-chairs for a term of two years.

84. The secretariat informed participants of the nominations of Ms. A. Engleryd (Sweden), Ms. V. Galatone (Canada) and Mr. S. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairs of the Executive Body.

85. The Executive Body elected Ms. A. Engleryd (Sweden) and Ms. V. Galatone (Canada) as Vice-Chairs of the Executive Body for a term of two years and re-elected Mr. S. Vasiliev (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chair for a second term of two years.

XIV. Adoption of decisions taken at the thirty-second session

86. The Executive Body adopted the decisions taken at its thirty-second session on 13 December 2013 (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1).
