

Decision 2013/___

Reporting on strategies, policies, and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols

The Executive Body

Recalling Article 8 of the Convention, under which the Parties agree to exchange information on, among other things, “[n]ational, sub-regional and regional policies and strategies for the control of sulphur compounds and other major air pollutants;”

Welcoming the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on the exchange of information, experiences and good practices on air pollution-related policies, legislation, strategies and measures at its 51st Session;

Noting the decision of the Working Group on Strategies and Review that it should continue to provide a platform for policy discussions related to the design and implementation of different regulatory, voluntary, economic or other measures relating to air pollution;

Recalling the obligations to report on strategies, policies, and other measures to implement protocols to the Convention as set forth in Article 6 of the 1985 Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30 per cent (“1985 Sulphur Protocol”); Article 8.1 of the 1988 Protocol concerning the control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or their Transboundary Fluxes (“NO_x Protocol”); Articles 8.1 and 8.2 of the 1991 Protocol concerning the control of emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes (“VOC Protocol”); Article 5.1 of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reductions of Sulphur Emissions (“1994 Sulphur Protocol”); Article 7.1 of the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals (“Heavy Metals Protocol”); Article 9.1 of the 1998 Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (“POPs Protocol”); and Article 7.1 of the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (“Gothenburg Protocol”);

Recalling also the authorization to the Executive Body to determine the appropriate format and content of such reporting, as reflected in Article 5.1 of the 1995 Sulphur Protocol, Article 7.2 of the Heavy Metals Protocol, Article 7.2 of the POPs Protocol, and Article 7.2 of the Gothenburg Protocol;

Recalling further its decisions in 1999 (ECE/EB.AIR/68, para. 23), 2001 (ECE/EB.AIR/68, para. 78), 2002 (ECE/EB.AIR/77, para. 77), 2003 (ECE/EB.AIR/79, para. 71), 2005 (ECE/EB.AIR/87, para. 70(b)), 2007 (ECE/EB.AIR/91, para. 82(b)), and 2009 (ECE/EB.AIR/99, para.85 (b)) to establish a questionnaire by which Parties could fulfill their obligations to report on strategies, policies, and other measures;

Welcoming the establishment by the Secretariat of an electronic archive of past responses to the questionnaire;

Noting that, with respect to obligations under the 1985 Sulphur Protocol, the NO_x Protocol, the VOC Protocol, and the 1994 Sulphur Protocol, Parties have generally not reported significant changes to their strategies, policies, and measures in recent years;

Mindful that obligations regarding reporting on strategies, policies, and measures are distinct from obligations to report on emissions of air pollutants, and that emissions reporting is not addressed in this decision;

Decides as follows:

1. The Working Group on Strategies and Review shall continue to devote time each year for policy discussions related to the design and implementation of different regulatory, voluntary, economic or other measures relating to air pollution.

2. The Working Group on Strategies and Review shall, annually in advance of a session, invite Parties to report at the session on strategies, policies, and measures employed to implement obligations under any of the Protocols to the Convention.

3. Parties to the NO_x Protocol and the VOC Protocol may utilize the time set aside during the annual session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to report on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies, and measures to implement obligations under the respective Protocols in satisfaction of their obligations under Article 8.1 of the NO_x Protocol and Article 8.2 of the VOC Protocol.

4. The sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review shall be considered the format for reporting on strategies, policies, and measures referenced in Article 5.1 of the 1995 Sulphur Protocol, Article 7.2 of the Heavy Metals Protocol, Article 7.2 of the POPs Protocol, and Article 7.2 of the Gothenburg Protocol.

5. The Working Group on Strategies and Review shall include in its annual report to the Executive Body a summary of the reports of Parties and the policy discussions held in furtherance of this decision.

6. The Secretariat shall continue to maintain the electronic archive of responses to the questionnaires completed by Parties pursuant to the decisions of the Executive Body.

7. The Executive Body shall evaluate, at its 34th Session in 2015, the effectiveness of this decision in facilitating and encouraging exchange of information and implementation of obligations to report on strategies, policies, and measures.