



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

MAR 18 2013

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

Dear Colleagues,

I have great pleasure to invite you to participate in the fifty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to be held in Geneva from Tuesday, April 30 to Friday, May 3, 2013. The session is scheduled to start at **10.am. on Tuesday** and finish at **1 p.m. on Friday**.

During this session, we will focus our work on discussing the proposals by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action plan for Implementation of the Long-Term Strategy for the Convention, the ad-hoc group of experts review of experts review of the International Cooperative Programmes (ICP) and information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention.

The provisional annotated agenda ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/109 and other related official as well as informal documents are available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=31868>

As is usual for the Chairman's letter, this document intends to highlight several important issues on our agenda for which you should be well prepared:

Item 3 Proposals by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-term Strategy for the Convention and by the ad hoc group of experts to review the International Cooperative Programmes.

Following the EB's request to dedicate WGSR in part to this item which the EB had no time to discuss, the first full day of the meeting could be devoted to the proposals by the two ad hoc groups of experts as outlined in the provisional agenda. Proposals by the ad hoc group of experts on the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Long-Term Strategy for the Convention are available as formal documents ECE/EB.AIR/2012/5 and ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2013/1 and /2. Proposals by the ad hoc group of experts reviewing the ICPs should be available in advance of the session and will be presented as an informal document.

Item 4. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention:

This item will allow for a discussion on the implementation of commitments under the Convention in countries throughout the entire ECE region as well as the specific challenges faced by EECCA. It is proposed to dedicate the first half of the second day to the following three sub-items:

item (a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures.

A panel discussion will be organized to address this item. Several good practices of air pollution

related policies and measures, emanating also from different sectors, from throughout the ECE region will be presented by Parties. Several questions will guide a subsequent moderated discussion to identify key success and enabling factors of such policies and measures and their potential for adaptation in other countries in the region. Some of these questions as well as a first

selection of examples of good practices are outlined, for your consideration, in the respective note (Exchange of information and good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures in the region (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2013/4)) which is available on the meeting webpage. I encourage all Parties to submit data and information on such policies and practices for their country that meet this criteria. Should you wish to submit further case studies and/or contribute actively to the panel discussion by presenting one of your national good practices, please contact the secretariat by writing to Franziska.Ilg@unece.org by April 5, 2013.

(b) Challenges faced by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with regard to accession and implementation;

This item will be moderated by Mr. Andrei Pilipchuk as WGSR Vice-Chair who agreed to take on this role. Several presentations should highlight challenges faced by the EECCA countries with regards to accession to the Convention's latest Protocols as well as successful approaches to progress with ratification/accession. I strongly encourage countries from the EECCA region to submit information on specific challenges they face in moving forward as well as successful approaches to inform the discussion on this topic. Countries from the EECCA region interested in presenting their examples or providing information are invited to contact Andrei Pilipchuk at pilipchuk@gmail.com with a copy to the secretariat (Alina.Novikova@unece.org) by April 5, 2013.

(c) Imminent and emerging policy issues and scientific findings.

This last item will allow to draw attention to imminent and emerging policy issues, as well as recent scientific findings and their policy implications. Such issues can comprise current developments with regard to the meeting of the national emission ceilings and their revision, the WHO air quality standards, as well as the recent finding concerning the carcinogenic effect of diesel exhaust.

5. Exchange of information and technology

There was no opportunity at the Executive Body to have a further discussion on the guidance for adjustments under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to emission reduction commitments or to inventories for the purposes of comparing total national emissions with them which was approved in decision 2012/12 (ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1). At the upcoming meeting, delegates will be briefed on the procedures for applying for adjustments under the Protocol. It would be useful to learn which Parties are planning to use these procedures in the near future.

9. Progress in the identification of the 2012-2013 workplan

Under this item, the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and EGTEI will provide an update on their work and highlight important policy issues for the attention of WGSR.

Finally, I wish to thank the Secretariat for their excellent efforts in making the consolidated text of the two most recent protocols available. I encourage Parties to come prepared to identify steps they are taking to ratify these amendments. Items 6 and 7 as outlined in the provisional agenda will provide for an opportunity to share this information.

Yours sincerely,



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