

## Information Sharing by Parties on the Implementation of the Convention

### OUTLINE OF PANEL DISCUSSION

#### BACKGROUND

Parties have implemented different policies, strategies and measures in order to comply with their obligations under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols. As per the Convention's Article 8, they have furthermore agreed to "[...] exchange information on national, sub-regional and regional policies and strategies for [...] the control of major air pollutants [...]".

Sectors in which such policies, strategies and legislation affecting air pollution abatement are adopted comprise, amongst others, transport, energy, industry, housing and urban development, biodiversity, agriculture and forestry. In addition to legislative and regulative approaches, measures beneficial to air pollution abatement can include (financial) incentives or disincentives (taxes, subsidies) as well as voluntary measures. A mix of different policies and measures can ultimately strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its protocols.

#### OUTLINE

As part of the fifty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review a panel discussion will take place to exchange information amongst Parties with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

As outlined in the provisional meeting agenda, it is proposed that the discussion be structured into three parts, focusing first on the exchange of information and good practices in the implementation of air pollution related policies, strategies and measures (item 4a) and then considering the challenges faced by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with regard to accession/ratification and implementation as well as possible approaches to overcoming these (item 4b). The last part of the session will offer an opportunity for Parties to share information on imminent and emerging policy issues as well as recent scientific findings and their policy implications (item 4c).

## Wednesday, 1 May, 10:00 – 13:00, 15:00 – 16:15

*In the following, the presentations submitted by Parties and Non-Parties are listed in a sequence proposed by the Chairs of sessions (a) and (b) and the secretariat.*

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

- **Introduction** by WGSR Chair Bill Harnett
- **"Regulation of agriculture in Denmark - with a focus on reducing ammonia emissions,"** Christian Lange Fogh, Denmark (10 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)
- **"Incentives for the efficient use of natural resources in the new Swiss Agricultural Policy",** Richard Ballaman, Switzerland (10 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)
- **"National measures on the abatement of emissions from small and medium combustion installations in Germany,"** Anja Behnke, Germany (10 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)
- **"Regulatory and voluntary efforts in addressing Particulate Matter and Black Carbon in the U.S"** Kimber Scavo, U.S. (10 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)
- **"Reduction of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> through a voluntary agreement with the Flemish power plant sector",** Peter Meulepas, Belgium (10 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)
- **"The Norwegian NO<sub>x</sub> Tax",** Eli-Marie Åsen, Norway (10 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)
- **"The Swiss experience in reducing diesel soot from construction machinery",** Gaston Theis, Switzerland (10 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)
- **"Importance of fuel quality, including fuels used for mobile sources and the shipping sector",** Andre Zuber, European Commission (10 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)
- **"Using web resources as tools for knowledge sharing"** Andrew Kelly, Ireland (10 min presentation + 5 min Q&A)
- **Panel discussion** with consideration of the following questions:
  - (i) *Which examples of measures, successful in leading to air pollution abatement, exist in your country that could be considered "good practices"? What are the driving forces leading to the adoption of such successful measures in your country (e.g. legislation, incentives, voluntary actions, etc.)? At which level (national, municipal) and in which sectors are they being implemented?*

(ii) *Do incentive measures and voluntary arrangements exist in your country and have proven to be beneficial to the abatement of air pollution? If so, in which areas are they applied successfully? What is the balance between incentive, voluntary and mandatory measures in your country?*

(iii) *Is a regular cross-sectorial information exchange on air pollution policy design and/or policy impacts customary in your country? If so, with which sectors do air pollution policy makers mainly cooperate with, and vice-versa?*

(iv) *In which sector could your country be considered as particularly successful in terms of the cross-sectorial implementation of air pollution-related policies and measures? Where can you identify potential for further improvements?*

- **Summary/conclusions** by WGSR Chair

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

- **Introduction** by WGSR Co-Chair Andrei Pilipchuk
- **“Challenges faced by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with regard to implementation of the Convention”**, Aleksandra Nestorovska-Krsteska, The FYROM (8 min presentation + 2 min Q&A)
- **“Challenges faced by Ukraine regarding implementation”**, Nataliia Pavlenko, Ukraine (8 min presentation + 2 min Q&A)
- **“Serbia’s recent experience of accession to the Protocols on Heavy Metals and on POPs and on the current status of implementation”**, Jasmina Bogdanović, Serbia (8 min presentation + 2 min Q&A)
- Overview by Co-Chair Andrei Pilipchuk on **challenges for EECCA countries and possible approaches to address them**
- **Panel discussion** focusing on the main obstacles to accession/ratification and implementation as well as possible approaches to addressing the challenges identified
- **Summary/ conclusions** by WGSR Co-Chair

- **Conclusions and outcome of sessions a) and b)** by WGSR Chair (10 min)

*Note: This session can be extended further if the need for a continued discussion arises.*

## Thursday, 2 May, 10:00 – 10:30

*Note: Due to timing considerations and the availability of the speaker, agenda item 4(c) will be addressed separately on 2 May.*

### **(c) Imminent and emerging policy issues and scientific findings**

- 10:00-10:30: **“Recent findings related to air pollution and health”**  
*(addressing health aspects of PM, Global Burden of Disease, carcinogenic effects of diesel exhaust, forest fires/biomass burning, revised WHO air quality standards for Europe),*

Marie-Eve Heroux, WHO European Centre for Environment and Health (via video-conference, 20 min + 10 min Q+A)