June 16, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

I have great pleasure to invite you to participate in the fifty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to be held in Geneva from Monday, June 30 to Thursday, July 3, 2014. The session is scheduled to start at **3:00 p.m. on Monday and finish at 1 p.m. on Thursday.**

During this session, our work will focus on the implementation of the 2014-2015 work plan, information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention and on giving particular attention to issues associated with the transport sector and air pollution. The provisional annotated agenda ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/111 and other related official as well as informal documents are available at [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=33280](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=33280).

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

**Item 3 Progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 workplan**

This item will focus on 4 reports from other bodies under the Convention and an informal document. The reports will be from the Task Force on Heavy Metals (TFHM), the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN), the Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues (EGTEI) and the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (TFIAM). The reports from the first three groups are currently on the meeting website. The TFIAM Report can be found at [http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/research/researchPrograms/MitigationofAirPollutionandGreenhousegases/TFIAM_43_report_final_140519.pdf](http://www.iiasa.ac.at/web/home/research/researchPrograms/MitigationofAirPollutionandGreenhousegases/TFIAM_43_report_final_140519.pdf). The informal document will be a draft outline from the Chair of the Working Group on Effects for the “CLRTAP Assessment Report: Achievements and Prospects for the Future.”

Related to the TFHM report I would ask all Parties to note the key conclusion that the amended Protocol must enter into force for the flexible transition arrangements to be available. This is critical to getting greater participation from the countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia (SEE and EECCA). I plan to come back to this issue under Item 5 Other business later in the meeting to have countries speak to how they are moving forward to ratify our two recently amended protocols (Heavy Metals and Gothenburg). Concerning the TFRN report, I draw your attention to their significant progress in implementing the workplan including work on an international framework for nitrogen management. In their conclusions, you should note the call for greater attention needing to be paid by Parties to providing more widespread and standardized farm level activity and management data to improve the estimates of progress being made. Related to the Report from the Expert Group on Techno-Economic Issues (EGTEI), special attention should be paid to the draft Terms of Reference for a Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues in the report’s annex which was requested under the work plan. The WGSR will need to give input on these terms to the Executive Body for their consideration at their meeting in December 2014. Related to TFIAM, I encourage you to read their informative report on progress in implementing their work plan and also on two key aspects of their future work: 1. Performing analysis of the EU policy proposals and their implications on air quality for the ECE Region and 2. Providing support to EECCA countries to include their information in future analyses.
**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 second day to items 4(a), (b) and (c).

- **item (a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures.**
The morning session will focus on 4(a) where Parties should be prepared to report on their implementation of the protocols identified in Executive Body decision 2013/2. This is the first time we will be substituting presentations in the room for full reporting by Parties per a questionnaire. It should allow for a more interactive discussion on the actions being taken. It would be desirable to achieve a balanced overview with regards to different protocols and pollutants concerned. Also taking into account the limited timing of the session, there would be a mix of interventions from the floor and presentations. As we will be following this approach for a number of upcoming WGSR meetings, I would request that the countries that wish to present at this meeting be certain to complete the template for submissions and send it to the secretariat as was explained in the previous communication on this matter from the secretariat. In addition, we will need to report to the Executive Body on how successful we feel this approach is at information sharing as opposed to a questionnaire. Please think about this and we will come back to this issue under **item 5. Other business** on Thursday morning.

- **(b) Progress made and challenges faced by countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with regard to accession and implementation;**
The session is aimed at raising awareness on the successful approaches to progress with ratification/accession to the Convention's latest Protocols as well as on the challenges countries might wish to highlight in addition to those mentioned last year. I strongly encourage countries from the SEE and EECCA region to prepare related presentations and discussion issues and invite them to send their draft versions to the secretariat (air_meetings@unece.org) by June 18th to tailor the programme accordingly.

- **(c) Imminent and emerging policy issues and scientific findings.**
During this session we will hear about recent work by the World Health Organization and the International Agency on Cancer Research.

- **(d) Current policy issues: transport and air pollution**

The brochure for this special session will be posted under informal documents on the website for the meeting.

**5. Other Business**
I plan to come back to discuss how we will report to the Executive Body on item 4(a) and to discuss how Parties are progressing toward ratifying the amended Gothenburg and Heavy Metals protocols.
6. Election of Officers
We will need to elect our vice chairs for the next 2 years.

I think this will be a very interesting and informative session and look forward to a very productive session.

Yours sincerely,

William Harnett
Chair
Working Group on Strategies and Review