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

Working Group on Strategies and Review

Fifty-third session

Geneva, 15–17 December 2015

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-third session

I. Introduction

1. The fifty-third session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15 to 17 December 2015. It was held back to back with the thirty-fourth session of the Executive Body for the Convention (Geneva, 18 December 2015).

A. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. Delegates from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan also attended the meeting.

3. Also present at the meeting were representatives from Aarhus University, the Coordination Centre for Effects, the European Environmental Bureau, the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations, the International Investment Center and the University of Lisbon.

B. Organizational matters

4. The meeting was chaired by Mr. William Harnett (United States).



5. The Working Group adopted the agenda for the session, as set out in document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/113, with changes proposed by the Chair.¹

II. Adoption of the report of the fifty-first session

6. The Working Group adopted the report of its fifty-second session as set out in document ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/112.

III. Progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 workplan

7. The Working Group took note of the reports by the co-Chairs of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and the co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues on the progress made by those bodies in the implementation of the 2014–2015 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2).

8. The Working Group welcomed the progress in the preparation of the draft guidance document on emission control techniques for mobile sources by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, and invited all Parties to send their comments on the document to the Convention secretariat by 20 January 2016. The Working Group requested the Task Force to submit the final draft to the Executive Body for adoption at its thirty-fifth session (Geneva, 2–4 May 2016).

9. The Working Group further discussed the progress in the preparation of draft guidelines for the estimation and measurement of emissions of volatile organic compounds by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, and requested the Task Force to establish a drafting group with the participation of all interested Parties to continue the work on the draft document. Parties were invited to submit their nominations to the drafting group to the Convention secretariat and the Task Force co-Chairs by 20 January 2016. The Task Force should report on the progress in the preparation of the document at the thirty-fifth session of the Executive Body, and submit a revised draft for the Working Group to review at its fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 13–14 December 2016). A final draft, incorporating any comments from the Working Group, should then be submitted to the Executive Body for adoption at its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016).

10. The Working Group also discussed the implementation of part 4 of the 2014–2015 workplan, dedicated to capacity-building to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

11. The secretariat reported on the capacity-building and awareness-raising activities it had implemented in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2014–2015. Those include workshops, trainings and consultation services delivered in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Uzbekistan and Ukraine to support the reporting of emission data within the framework of the Convention. In addition, it had included the provision of analysis of the national air quality assessment and management policies and legislation in Uzbekistan, identifying gaps and making recommendations on further steps towards ratification, and the organization of a round table to discuss the results of the analysis with national stakeholders, as well as other activities aimed at improved awareness of decision makers about the effects of air pollution and the benefits of

¹ All documentation for the meeting is available on the following web page for the session: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35605#/>.

implementing the Convention and its protocols. The Working Group took note of the information provided.

12. The representative of Uzbekistan expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the support provided and reported on the ongoing process of consideration of the revised draft law on air protection, which accommodated the recommendations provided.

13. Finally, the Working Group took note of the concerns expressed by the delegations of Belarus and the Russian Federation with the implementation of items 4.1–4.3 of the workplan for the Convention for 2014–2015.

14. Closing its consideration of the progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 workplan, the Working Group took note of the report by the secretariat on the status of outreach activities (part 5 of the workplan), including updates on the cooperation opportunities with the Arctic Council, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the World Health Organization and other partners.

IV. Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

15. The Chair opened the session dedicated to the information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention by noting that — due to back-to-back meetings of the Working Group and the Executive Body in 2015 — it would not be possible to hold a full session on the exchange of experiences, in line with Executive Body decision 2013/2. Parties that had submitted their completed templates with examples and good practices of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures, but which could not make a presentation due to the limited time, were encouraged to present their experience at the next session of the Working Group.

16. Representatives of Croatia, the European Union, Lithuania, Poland and Serbia gave oral presentations of their experience in implementing the Convention.

17. In addition, although country representatives did not make presentations on the topic, completed templates with examples and good practices were submitted by Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and Slovakia.

18. The Working Group took note of the information provided by Parties and requested the secretariat to make the presentations and templates submitted by Parties available at the meeting web page.²

19. Finally, the Working Group requested the secretariat to prepare an overview of the status of reporting by Parties in line with decision 2013/2 for the Executive Body's consideration at its thirty-sixth session.

V. Draft workplan for the Convention for 2016–2017

20. The Working Group discussed the policy part of the draft workplan for the Convention for 2016–2017, and provided comments to be incorporated in a revised draft to be submitted to the Executive Body for adoption at its thirty-fourth session.

² Available on the web page (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35605#/>), by clicking the “presentations” tab.

VI. 2016 assessment report

21. The Working Group welcomed the progress in the preparation of the 2016 assessment report under the Convention, based on the presentation of the summary for policymakers and the main scientific report by the editors of the assessment, and:

(a) Noted that Canada and the United States would provide their contributions and comments on both parts of the report by 15 February 2016;

(b) Invited all interested Parties to the Convention to provide their comments by 15 February 2016;

(c) Noted that the editors of the report would prepare the updated drafts of the documents for consideration at the joint meeting of the Extended Bureaux of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 14–17 March 2016) and the final drafts for consideration by the Executive Body at its thirty-fifth session.

22. The Working Group further decided to recommend to the Executive Body that it form an ad hoc group of experts, with a time-limited mandate, to develop a policy response to the 2016 assessment report.

VI. Adoption of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group

23. On 17 December 2015, the Working Group on Strategies and Review adopted the decisions taken at its fifty-third session.
