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**To Heads of Delegations of the  
Working Group on Strategies  
and Review and of the Executive Body**

Dear Colleagues,

Further to the Secretariat's letter of 17 October we have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the fifty-fourth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR) and the thirty-sixth session of the Executive Body (EB) to be held in Geneva from 13 to 16 December 2016. The WGSR meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 13 December and finish at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday 14 December. The EB will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday 15 December and finish at 6:00 p.m. on Friday 16 December. The provisional annotated agendas (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/115 and ECE/EB.AIR/136), other related official as well as informal documents are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=40017#/> (WGSR) and <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42117#/> (EB). We hope this letter will help you plan for your participation.

For the WGSR meeting on Tuesday morning we will focus our discussion on the progress in the implementation of the 2016-2017 workplan. For this discussion, you should review the reports of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN) and the Task Force on Techno-economic issues (TFTEI) as well as the report on the April 2016 workshop to promote the understanding of implementation of best available techniques in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The TFTEI chair will also present us with the updated draft guidance document on the calculation and measurement of volatile organic compounds (VOC). The chairs of the TFRN and TFTEI will be invited to give us a short report about their activities. It is the WGSR Chair's hope that we will be able to agree on a final draft of the VOC Guidance document and submit it to the EB for their formal adoption later the same week.

Following the reports from the Task Forces, we will focus on the work of the ad hoc policy review group of experts working on a policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment report. We will interrupt the formal WGSR meeting and turn the chair over to the Chair of the ad hoc policy group to lead an informal discussion under the Chatham House rule. This rule allows people to speak as individuals and to express views that may not be those of their organizations or countries and therefore encourages free discussion. When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither

the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

The aim of this discussion is to get open and honest input on the work the group is performing to help guide them as they move forward. A [list of key issues](#) to be discussed has been made available on the website for the meeting as an informal document to the WGSR session. We encourage you all to have a look at this document and take active part in the discussion. After the final report of the ad hoc policy review group has been presented in spring next year we will discuss and debate the way forward with Parties.

On Tuesday afternoon/evening and on Wednesday, in accordance with EB Decision 2013/2, the floor will be open for presentations from Parties on their strategies, policies and measures that have been taken to address obligations under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sulphur Protocol, the POPs Protocol, the Heavy Metals Protocol and the Gothenburg Protocol. Parties to the Protocol on NO<sub>x</sub> and the Protocol on VOCs as well as other States may also use this opportunity to report. This approach was established by the EB to provide the information in a room with translation and an opportunity for Parties share information, mutually learn from each other's experiences and to ask questions. I would like to encourage Parties, in particular those, which have not yet reported previously, to consider reporting their experiences and to submit the completed templates circulated by the secretariat in advance. Parties who wish to report at this session should notify the Secretariat as soon as possible so we can best manage the time allotted for this activity. Following the reports by Parties, an ensuing discussion will allow for reflection on pertinent questions related to the implementation of the Protocols and the process of experience sharing as part of the WGSR session.

On Wednesday afternoon, we will focus on reports from Parties on actions to support the implementation of the [U.N. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#). You will find specific goals related to air pollution under Goals 3<sup>1</sup> and 11<sup>2</sup> and their respective targets, as well as numerous others (please see the informal document "[Mapping of the Environment subprogramme processes and activities that support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals](#)" which includes reference to the SDGs which the Air Convention supports implementing). We would like to draw your attention to an informal document for the WGSR session which contains a presentation on air pollution and SDGs which argues for a broader incorporation of air pollution into other SDGs. The document even includes a reference to the LRTAP Convention on page 8. We look forward to a very open discussion on how the air quality community should be engaged in incorporation of air pollution goals into our countries different SDG strategies.

The Working Group will also be asked to elect its Vice-Chairs at the end of its session; its Chairperson will propose a related addition to the provisional agenda. It will be invited to elect three or more Vice-Chairs for the period 2017–2018.

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<sup>1</sup> Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

<sup>2</sup> Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

For the Executive Body we would like to draw your attention to a panel discussion that will take place on Thursday morning December 15 on the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference which took place in June 2016 and focused, among others, on “Improving Air Quality for a better environment and human health.” The discussion will be led by the UNECE Executive Secretary Mr. Christian Friis Bach and we encourage Parties and organizations to present any progress made on actions which were committed to and/or future plans in this area. FYI, all [commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air](#) are listed in an informal document, made available for the session.

We will follow up with the discussion on steps taken towards ratification of the three most recently amended protocols, thus moving part of agenda item 5 b) to Thursday morning. It is the intent of the EB Chair to request all Parties to give short oral updates on progress. Further to the secretariats reminder 28 October, short written reports on this progress should also be sent by all Parties to the secretariat by 30 November.

From Thursday afternoon, December 15<sup>th</sup> and onwards we will continue work according to the outlined agenda following up on the discussions in the WGSR on the implementation of the 2016-2017 workplan, and addressing – further to policy – other matters in the area of science, compliance, capacity-building and communication and outreach. Regarding the scientific work, the Executive Body will be requested to take decisions on the continued financing and operation of the Coordination Centre for Effects. On compliance, the Chair of the Implementation Committee will report on its work and recommendations (please see the available report by the Committee). The Chair of the ad-hoc group of legal experts will also provide advice on obligations under the Gothenburg Protocol in response to a request by Luxembourg, as per the EB’s request at its 34th session. Thereafter we will discuss capacity building and outreach and financial items before we end our session with elections of officers. The Executive Body is expected to elect its Chair and three vice chairs of the EB, a chair for the WGSR as well as two members of the Implementation Committee.

We look forward to meeting you all in December.

Yours Sincerely



Anna Engleryd



William Harnett