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Thirty-seventh session

Geneva, 11–14 December 2017

Report of the Executive Body on its thirty-seventh session

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I. Introduction

1. The thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) was held from 11 to 14 December 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

A. Attendance

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

3. Also present at the meeting were representatives of the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling, the European Environmental Bureau, the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations, the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East, the Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

B. Organizational matters

4. The Executive Body adopted the agenda for its thirty-seventh session (ECE/EB.AIR/139).

5. The Executive Body adopted the report of its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016) contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/137.

II. Report on credentials

6. Delegations were invited to submit their credentials during the session. The officers of the session reported that 28 Parties to the Convention, which constituted a quorum, were present with original credentials, and that the delegations of 4 Parties had submitted copies of their credentials. The Executive Body took note of the report on credentials.

III. Matters arising from meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings

7. The secretariat informed participants about the outcomes of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Ostrava, Czechia, 13–15 June 2017), jointly organized by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and UNEP, and the twenty-third session of the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 14–17 November 2017).

8. The secretariat highlighted that the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the Ostrava Conference and its annex had identified air pollution as one of the most important topics to be tackled in the region, and had acknowledged the importance of the Air Convention and the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative in that regard. Air quality was also the topic of

a side event ECE organized together with the European Environment Agency, UNEP, WHO and other partners on the margins of the Conference.

9. Regarding the twenty-third session of the Committee on Environmental Policy, the secretariat highlighted the interactive discussion on the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and the information provided on efforts under each agreement to define its role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That information would be forwarded to the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development in the ECE region to be held in March 2018. A third edition of the Batumi Talk Show had also been held on 15 November to further promote the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air and the Batumi Initiative on Green Economy and their progress. A one-day mid-term review of the main outcomes of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), including the two Batumi initiatives, would be organized as part of the Committee's twenty-fourth session in January 2019.

10. A representative of the European Union acknowledged the outcome of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and encouraged countries to develop national portfolios of actions in accordance with the Ministerial Declaration. A representative of Switzerland highlighted the importance of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air and encouraged Convention Parties to use the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 22–25 May 2018) to report on progress made in the implementation of their commitments under it.

11. The Executive Body took note of the report by the secretariat.

IV. Status of ratification of the Convention and its protocols

12. The Executive Body considered the status of ratification, acceptance and approval of, or accession to the three latest, amended protocols to the Convention — namely the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The secretariat reported that, at the invitation of the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session (ECE/EB.AIR/137, para. 33), 14 Parties, including the European Union, had submitted informal reports on their progress in the ratification of those protocols. In its report, the European Union had provided information on each of its member States.

13. The secretariat reminded Parties of the “current time” approach to be applied to calculate the number of acceptances required for the entry into force of the amendments to the protocols. At the time of the session, 18 acceptances of amendments by Parties were required for the entry into force of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended. Nine Parties had already accepted the amendments, four Parties had indicated that they would ratify and/or accept the amendments by the end of 2017 and at least six Parties expected to ratify and/or accept the amendments in 2018.

14. The secretariat further noted that an additional 23 acceptances by Parties of amendments to the Protocol on Heavy Metals were required for the entry into force of the amended version of that Protocol. Twelve Parties had already accepted the amendments, two had indicated their plans to accept the amendments by the end of 2017 and at least eight expected to accept the amendments in 2018.

15. In addition, the secretariat reported that, at the time of the session, 22 ratifications were required for the entry into force of each amendment to the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Thirteen Parties had accepted the amendments to annexes I and II to the Protocol (decision 2009/2) and fifteen Parties had accepted amendments to annexes I to IV,

VI and VIII (decision 2009/1). Five Parties had indicated their plans to accept the amendments to the Protocol in 2018.

16. Several Parties to the Convention had mentioned in their informal reports plans to start or to continue the process of preparing to accept the amendments or to accede to the three latest protocols, the secretariat said. A number of Parties had also included information on the obstacles to ratification and the support required to overcome them.

17. During the informal segment of the discussion, representatives of several Parties provided detailed information on their progress in terms of ratification and suggested ways to support others in that process. In particular, a stepwise approach for accession was mentioned as a potential way to overcome a number of obstacles to ratification, together with support needed in terms of the introduction of best available techniques, cost-benefit analyses and emissions reporting. The need to raise awareness among decision makers and to increase international political pressure to ratify the protocols was highlighted by some Parties.

18. The Executive Body took note of the information presented by the secretariat on the status of ratification of the three latest protocols and the information shared by Parties during the informal discussion. It encouraged the Parties to the original protocols to accept the amendments so that they entered into force as early as possible. It furthermore encouraged all other Parties to ratify the protocols as amended.

V. Review of implementation of the 2016-2017 workplan

19. The chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the secretariat reported on the implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1).

A. Science

20. The Chair of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Chair of the Working Group on Effects reported on the implementation of item 1 (science) of the workplan and, in particular, on the outcomes of the third joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 11–15 September 2017), including the conclusions and recommendations for the Executive Body's consideration (see ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2017/2-ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2017/2). They noted the usefulness of the 2017 thematic sessions on ecosystem monitoring, linking hemispheric to local scale air pollution, and the lessons learned from the thematic session held in 2016.

21. With regard to reporting by Parties on their national emission inventories, the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body highlighted in particular the reporting of gridded emissions for the first time in the finer spatial resolution (0.1° x 0.1° degree longitude-latitude grid), the extensive reporting of black carbon emissions (by 38 Parties, with 34 reporting full time series as of 2000) and the improved emission reporting by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. She noted the cooperation with the European Union on the review of national inventories, with the efficient use of resources and complementary efforts, and the extensive scientific cooperation between the Convention centres and task forces and partner organizations, such as the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the North-East Atlantic and WMO and its Global Atmosphere Watch programme.

22. The Chair of the Working Group on Effects reported on progress in the monitoring, modelling and mapping of air pollution effects, including the further development of

methodologies for the effects assessments. She highlighted the broad response by Parties to the ongoing calls for data issued by the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historical and Cultural Monuments and the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends in 2015–2016. She also noted the broadening of cooperation between the international cooperative programmes and the European Union on long-term ecosystem monitoring.

23. The Executive Body took note of the reports of the Chair of the EMEP Steering Body and the Chair of the Working Group on Effects and welcomed: (a) the results achieved in the implementation of item 1 of the 2016–2017 workplan; (b) the cooperation between the Working Group on Effects, the international cooperative programme centres and the European Union on long-term ecosystem monitoring; and (c) the cooperation between EMEP, in particular its Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections and the Task Force on Emission inventories and Projections, and the European Union to streamline the review of national emission inventories in the period 2018–2022.

24. The Executive Body expressed its gratitude to the Netherlands for hosting the Coordination Centre for Effects for the past 27 years and thanked Germany for taking over the work of the Centre, stressing the importance of the Centre's work in linking science and policy.

B. Policy

25. The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review reported on the implementation of workplan item 2 (policy) and the outcomes of the fifty-fifth session of the Working Group (Geneva, 31 May–2 June 2017). She highlighted the conclusions and recommendations made by the Working Group at its fifty-fifth session for consideration by the Executive Body, including those related to the recommendations of the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (policy review group) and to the thematic session on agriculture and air pollution organized under the leadership of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen in cooperation with the secretariat and the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops.

26. The Working Group Chair also reported on the information-sharing session on good practices to strengthen the implementation air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures and provided an update on the submission of new commitments and the implementation of existing ones under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air, as presented by delegations at the fifty-fifth session.

27. The Executive Body took note of the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on the implementation of item 2 of the 2016–2017 workplan. It also took note of the report of the Working Group on its fifty-fifth session and endorsed its recommendations related to information exchange on agriculture and air pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/118, para. 18 (a)–(f)).

28. Representatives of Canada, Estonia, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland reported on the implementation of their countries' existing commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air and the submission of new ones.

29. The Executive Body took note of the reports by Parties on their progress in implementing commitments under the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air and welcomed the submission of a new commitment by Sweden. It encouraged Parties to report regularly on progress in implementing those commitments within the sessions of the Working Group on

Strategies and Review. The Executive Body recognized the importance of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air in reaching out to actors outside the Convention.

C. Compliance

30. The Chair of the Implementation Committee reported on workplan item 3 (compliance), presenting the outcomes of the Committee's thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions (Leuven, Belgium, 28 February–2 March 2017 and Geneva, 5–7 September 2017, respectively), as contained in the Committee's twentieth report to the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/3) and in a supplementary document on the review of compliance by Parties with their reporting obligations (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/5). Out of 30 cases concerning compliance with emission reduction obligations, the Committee had been able to close 11: Cyprus had reached compliance with the Protocol Concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or Their Transboundary Fluxes; Monaco had reached compliance with the Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions; Slovakia had reached compliance with the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds and their Transboundary Fluxes; Austria, Czechia, Iceland and Lithuania had reached compliance with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants; Cyprus and Latvia had reached compliance with the Protocol on Heavy Metals; and Finland and the Netherlands had reached compliance with the Gothenburg Protocol.

31. The Implementation Committee Chair clarified that the Committee had not been able to review the compliance of Romania with its obligations under the Protocol on Heavy Metals because of an error in a table on the status of reporting by Parties produced by the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections, and not owing to missing data for the base year (see ECE/EB.AIR/2017/3, para. 3). The Committee would review the compliance of Romania at its fortieth session.

32. Out of 68 cases involving the review of Parties' compliance with their reporting obligations, 6 cases — concerning Albania, Greece (2 cases), Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Romania — had been closed following the submission of the missing data.

33. The Committee Chair then presented two draft decisions that the Committee recommended for adoption by the Executive Body: a draft decision concerning compliance with reporting obligations in view of the high number of Parties that had not submitted complete data in the 2015, 2016 and 2017 reporting cycles; and a draft decision on compliance by Norway with the Gothenburg Protocol (see ECE/EB.AIR/2017/5, annex).

34. Following the request of the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session (ECE/EB.AIR/137, para. 37), the delegation of the European Union submitted and presented a draft decision on adjustments under the Gothenburg Protocol in order to account for changes in the membership of the European Union.

35. The Chair of the Implementation Committee informed the Executive Body that Croatia had replaced its Committee member Ms. Nataša Kačić-Bartulović by Mr. Igor Vuković until the end of the term.

36. The Executive Body took note of the report of the Implementation Committee presented by the Committee Chair. It also took note of the replacement of the Implementation Committee member by Croatia.

37. The Executive Body adopted:

(a) Decision 2017/1 concerning compliance with reporting obligations, as amended at the session;

(b) Decision 2017/2 concerning compliance by Norway with the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (ref. 26/13 NH₃);

(c) Decision 2017/3 on adjustments under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to account for changes in the membership of the European Union.

D. Capacity-building to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

38. The Chair of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Coordinating Group) informed the Executive Body about the Group's activities in 2016–2017, highlighting the secretariat's efforts and donors' contributions in the successful implementation of capacity-building activities in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. There had been fruitful cooperation between the Coordinating Group and the Convention task forces and he thanked the secretariat for facilitating the involvement of the Coordinating Group's members in the annual task force meetings. The first phase of the project "Strengthening the implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia", funded by the Russian Federation in the amount of \$435,000 for the period 2016–2018, was in particular focused on the development and further improvement of emission inventories. Activities such as those that aimed at improved reporting under the Convention were crucial, as was the advice provided to the target countries on closing gaps in their national legislation in order to adapt it to requirements of the Convention and its protocols. Finally, the Coordinating Group Chair outlined progress in improving air quality management in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and stressed the need for continued exchange of experience and capacity-building on the implementation of best available techniques.

39. The secretariat presented the capacity-building activities it had organized in 2017, thanks to financial contributions by the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Sweden, including: consultation meetings and workshops organized in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to improve the quality and completeness of reporting in accordance with the requirements of the Convention; the analysis of the national air quality management policies and legislation in Tajikistan and Azerbaijan, along with round-table discussions on key recommendations for further steps towards ratification in Tajikistan (October 2017) and Azerbaijan (November 2017); and support for the participation of experts from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the meeting of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections to discuss issues of national emission inventories and projections (Krakow, Poland, May 2017).

40. The secretariat noted the significant progress in emission reporting by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2016–2017 and highlighted the need for continued support to further improve and maintain the emission data quality and completeness.

41. The representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine noted with appreciation the support provided by the secretariat in 2016–2017 to improve national emission inventories. The representative of Georgia pointed out that as a result of the training on the calculation of gridded emission data and emission projection development organized by the secretariat, Georgia had submitted national gridded data for the first time in 2017. The representatives of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Ukraine expressed their needs for further support to improve and maintain national emission inventories, in particular on the calculation of gridded emission data and the development of emission projections.

42. The representatives of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan expressed their appreciation to the secretariat for the analysis of their national legislation and the recommendations for further steps towards ratification presented at round-table discussions held in Baku in November and in Dushanbe in October 2017. The representative of Kyrgyzstan also stressed the importance of the results of the national analysis discussed at a round table in Bishkek in 2016.

43. The representatives of Georgia and Ukraine stressed the importance of the analysis of gaps in national legislation with regard to the requirements of the protocols and expressed their need for support in that regard so as to elaborate national action plans for the ratification and implementation of the latest three protocols.

44. The representative of the Republic of Moldova informed the Executive Body about the work to transpose the relevant European Union directives into the national legislation in line with its association agreement, including directives related to the introduction of best available techniques and an integrated environmental permit system. She highlighted the need for further support, in particular with regard to the calculation of gridded emission data.

45. The Co-Chair of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues noted the cooperation of the Task Force with the Coordination Group and the participation of experts from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, especially Azerbaijan, Belarus and Ukraine, in the annual meeting of the Task Force. He recalled the successful workshop on best available techniques held in Berlin in 2016, and expressed the hope that a similar event could be organized, possibly in 2019.

46. The representative of Norway reaffirmed the country's continued support for the activities to strengthen the implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia for the next three years, along with similar support to the other ECE environmental conventions and the Committee on Environmental Policy.

47. The representative of Switzerland noted the progress achieved by the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and underscored the importance of continuing to support activities in the subregion to promote ratification and implementation of the Convention and its protocols. He suggested that the Executive Body Bureau should discuss ways to increase the visibility of the progress made by the those countries in implementing the Convention.

48. A representative of the European Union recognized the progress made towards ratification and the areas identified for further assistance. It was important to further raise the profile of the Convention among a wider audience. New ideas and a variety of communication tools were needed to accomplish that. The European Union was currently undertaking an overview of all support activities organized in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with the aim to streamline them and include reference to the protocols to the Convention. He encouraged the delegations of the target countries to continue the dialogue in order to advance the progress in ratification and implementation.

49. The ECE Regional Adviser on Environment informed the Executive Body about her role in supporting the target countries in the implementation of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and assisting in the ratification process. In order to improve the effectiveness of the capacity-building work, there was a need to discuss ways to define additional measures and approaches to different activities that would support the ratification process. Current capacity-building activities were mainly focused on the expert level, and there was a need reach out to high-level decision makers in the countries. It was important to discuss further the best ways to achieve that.

50. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the reports of the Chair of the Coordinating Group and the secretariat and noted with appreciation the contribution of the capacity-building programme

managed by the secretariat and other bilateral projects to increase ratification and improve implementation of the protocols to the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;

(b) Noted the needs and requests for further support expressed by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and requested the secretariat to continue to support them in their efforts towards ratification and implementation of the Convention and its protocols;

(c) Requested the Bureau to discuss ways of increasing the visibility of the progress achieved by the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in terms of air pollution abatement and the implementation of the Convention's protocols;

(d) Took note of the presentation by the ECE Regional Adviser on Environment and requested the Bureau to discuss with the secretariat ways of reaching out to decision makers in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in order to match the ongoing capacity-building efforts at the technical and expert level with an increased political will;

(e) Expressed its appreciation to Parties providing contributions to support capacity-building and the participation of delegates and experts from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the meetings under the Convention.

E. Communication and outreach

51. The secretariat presented a progress report on outreach activities¹ prepared in accordance with the 2016–2017 workplan (item 5.3.5). The representative of Canada noted with reference to paragraph 54 of that report that in addition to the two working groups mentioned, the Expert Group on Black Carbon and Methane of the Arctic Council was also of relevance to the work under the Convention.

52. The European Union highlighted the continued importance of raising the visibility of the Convention and expressed support for the related outreach and communication activities carried out by the secretariat. Parties agreed that cooperation should be sought in particular in areas where efficiency could be increased, costs cut and duplications avoided.

53. The Chair emphasized that the Saltjöbaden VI workshop (Gothenburg, Sweden, 19–21 March 2018) would be an opportunity to discuss further approaches to enhanced cooperation.

54. A representative from Canada reported on the resolution on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally (UNEP/EA.3/Res.8), adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session (Nairobi, 4–6 December 2017). The resolution made reference to the Convention and the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative, providing an entry point for the Convention to cooperate more closely with UNEP. Several delegations thanked Canada and other Parties for their engagement in negotiating the resolution.

55. A representative from the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations presented the organization's recent work focusing on particulate matter, black carbon and ultrafine particles. The Executive Body took note of the information provided.

¹ This informal document and other meeting documentation can be found on the web page for the meeting, hosted on the Convention website: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43519>.

56. The Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the progress report by the secretariat on outreach and communications activities;

(b) Encouraged Parties to continue to promote the Convention through communication and outreach, and to support the secretariat in its efforts;

(c) Welcomed the resolution on preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session and expressed its readiness to cooperate with UNEP on its implementation. It requested the Executive Body Bureau to provide input to UNEP in that regard based on informal discussions that had taken place in the margins of the present session.

VI. 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

57. During a discussion on the draft workplan for the implementation of the Convention in 2018–2019 (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/1), delegations took into account the recommendations made by the Working Group on Strategies and Review with regard to the short-term recommendations of the policy review group (see ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/118).

58. The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects presented the highlights of the science part in the 2018–2019 workplan. They focused on specific needs (i.e., requests by Parties) and projects with limited time frames and stressed the broad consistency with the short-term recommendations of the policy review group. However, it was noted that not all the recommendations of the policy review group related to science were included in the workplan, owing to time and financial constraints. It was suggested that the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, keep track of the recommendations not included in the 2018–2019 workplan, so that the Executive Body could consider including them in the next workplan. It had been considered important nonetheless to include in the workplan a number of activities that would require additional funding (i.e., activities to be funded from voluntary contributions) and Parties were encouraged to provide contributions for those activities.

59. The Executive Body took note of the draft revised mandates for the scientific task forces and centres under the Convention presented in an informal document, and requested that the final revised mandates be submitted for consideration by the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 10–13 December 2018). It encouraged Parties to participate in the scientific activities under the international cooperative programmes and task forces.

60. The Executive Body encouraged the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue to organize special thematic sessions on specific topics. The Chair of the Working Group invited Parties to provide suggestions for the topic of the next thematic session and to communicate them to the secretariat by the end of January 2018. At the meeting, delegations suggested domestic wood combustion, particulate matter and black carbon emission controls as possible topics for the thematic session to be held in the framework of the Working Group's the fifty-sixth session in May 2018.

61. The Executive Body took note of the proposal by the Co-Chair of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues to organize the meeting of the Task Force in 2018 in Morocco, possibly back to back with an event aimed at the promotion of the Convention among experts from other regions.

62. The Executive Body adopted the workplan for the implementation of the Convention in 2018–2019, as amended during the session (ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1).

63. The Executive Body adopted the list of meetings and official documents in 2018–2019 and requested the secretariat to prepare and submit those documents for translation into the official ECE languages, as needed.

VII. Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention

64. The Chair of the Executive Body recalled the mandate of the policy review group established by Executive Body decision 2016/1 and the Executive Body's request at its thirty-sixth session for the group to review the priorities for work and action in the long-term strategy for the Convention (see ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1) and to highlight issues requiring further discussion with regard to the long-term strategy in advance of the Executive Body's thirty-seventh session. In accordance with those mandates, the policy review group had presented its findings to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1) and the Working Group had made respective recommendations to the Executive Body (see ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/118, paras. 13–14).

65. A representative of the policy review group presented a document highlighting the proposed updates to the long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4) prepared by the group pursuant to the Executive Body's request. Delegations expressed their appreciation to the policy review group for its work.

66. The Chair of the Executive Body presented an informal document she had prepared, outlining the key issues for discussion, in order to frame the potential scope and direction of the updates of the long-term strategy.

67. The representative of the Russian Federation commended the policy review group for its recommendations. He, nonetheless, noted the necessity of taking into account the financial constraints and focusing on the primary objectives of the Convention without expanding its mandate.

68. The representative of Switzerland noted that the funding aspects had been taken into account in the elaboration of the recommendations, and said it was rather a question of increasing benefits through synergies and more effective management of resources than of setting new tasks for the Convention.

69. The representative of the United States of America expressed support for the proposal for updating models of cost-effectiveness of abatement measures. The United States also supported the recommendations to further facilitate ratification and effective information sharing and regarding the collaboration of technical experts within the Convention with other organizations to better understand the links between ozone, nitrogen, climate and biodiversity, and between air pollution and climate change. All such collaboration should be framed in a way that made it clear that the Convention's goal was to reduce transboundary air pollution, and other environmental benefits were secondary to that goal. Moreover, the work under the Convention should be focused on the ratification and implementation of existing protocols to the Convention throughout the ECE region; it was premature to discuss the updates to the protocols, in particular to the Gothenburg Protocol, before the amendments had entered into force.

70. A representative of the European Union stressed that broadening the ratification of the Convention and its protocols was seen by the European Union as a primary objective of the Convention, and that any move towards revision of the Gothenburg Protocol should be accompanied by a focused drive towards ratification of the protocol as amended. The timing and design of any new obligations should be considered carefully to ensure support and to

encourage ratification. In that context, discussion on the revision of the long-term strategy was timely.

71. A representative of Canada indicated that, although implementation of the Convention and ratification of the three latest protocols remained the highest priorities, and that any updates to or revisions of the Gothenburg Protocol should begin only after the protocol as amended had entered into force, preparatory work could and should begin prior to that time.

72. Closing its consideration of the matter, the Executive Body adopted decision 2017/4 on further work by the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention.

73. The Executive Body decided to forward a number of elements to the policy review group as guidance to be used in proposing updates and revisions to the long-term strategy for the Convention (see annex III). In addition, the policy review group should take into consideration the comments made by Parties at the session, as reflected in the meeting report.

VIII. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

74. The secretariat introduced the note on the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/2) and informed the Executive Body about the status of Parties' contributions to the trust funds for financing the Convention's implementation in 2016–2017 and the use of resources in 2016. It furthermore presented an informal note with basic information about the funding flows and mechanisms under the Convention. In particular, the note provided information about co-funding — through the trust funds managed by the secretariat — of activities carried out by the scientific centres under the Convention. It also clarified the sources of funding for the secretariat and for the capacity-building, awareness-raising, communication and outreach activities managed by it.

75. The Executive Body took note of the information provided by the secretariat on the amount of contributions made by Parties to the trust fund for effects-oriented activities in the 2008–2016 period, and in 2017 as of 30 November, estimated at \$581,030 (excluding the earmarked contributions by Sweden and Switzerland to support the work of the Coordination Centre for Effects in 2017). The Executive Body expressed concern over the downward trend of the financing of effects-related activities and, in particular, the substantial decrease in the financing of the Coordination Centre for Effects.

76. With respect to the financing of EMEP activities, the Executive Body:

(a) Decided on the detailed use of resources in 2018 as set out in table 2 of document ECE/EB.AIR/2017/2, and on the scale of mandatory contributions as set out in table 3 of that document;

(b) Supported the Steering Body's call on the Parties to the Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP Protocol) to consider making additional voluntary contributions, in kind or in cash through the trust fund, to ensure that the work in 2018 could be accomplished as foreseen in the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention;

(c) Requested the Steering Body, with the assistance of its Bureau, to present the details of the 2019 budget for approval by the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth session;

(d) Urged Parties that had not yet done so to pay their 2017 contributions in cash to the trust fund and, in 2018, to pay their contributions so that they reached the trust fund in the first half of the year;

(e) Requested the Chair of the Steering Body and the its Bureau to perform an in-depth review the EMEP budget covered by the mandatory contributions and to propose an annotated EMEP budget proposal for 2019 for consideration by the Steering Body at its fourth joint session with the Working Group on Effects in September 2018.

77. With respect to effects-oriented activities, the Executive Body:

(a) Took note of the contributions made to the trust fund for effects-oriented activities for 2017 and welcomed the payments made, but also expressed disappointment at the lack of response by many Parties;

(b) Urged all Parties that had not yet done so to consider providing the recommended contributions to the trust fund for the financing of core activities without undue delay;

(c) Decided that the essential international coordination costs for financing the core activities of the Convention and its protocols, other than those covered by the EMEP Protocol, would be \$2,152,700 in 2018, and would provisionally be \$2,152,700 in 2019 and \$2,152,700 in 2020;

(d) Decided to apply the 2015 United Nations scale of assessments in calculating the recommended contributions for 2018–2019, in accordance with table 11 of document ECE/EB.AIR/2017/2;

(e) Invited the secretariat to provide information on the amount of contributions made to the trust fund for effects-oriented activities as of 30 November 2018 at its thirty-eighth session and to use the amount as a basis to co-fund the effects-oriented activities in 2019;

(f) Requested the secretariat to inform Parties of the recommended contributions to the trust fund to meet the 2018 budget, inviting them to make them as agreed in revised decision 2002/1;

(g) Encouraged Parties to make the recommended contributions to the trust fund before 30 November each year;

(h) Noted with appreciation the essential support provided to the Convention and its bodies by lead countries, countries hosting coordinating centres and those organizing meetings, and countries that funded activities of their national focal centres/points and also the active participation of national experts.

78. With respect to promotion and implementation of the Convention, the Executive Body:

(a) Reiterated its support for the work on promotion and implementation, underlining that an enlarged implementation of the Convention in countries in transition of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia was crucial for the future of the Convention;

(b) Invited all Parties, but especially those that led task forces and expert groups, to promote activities such as special workshops in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and to collaborate with the secretariat in developing and carrying out such projects;

(c) Approved the proposed 2018–2019 budget of \$1,880,000 for promotion and implementation of the Convention;

(d) Welcomed the contributions to the trust fund, and thanked those countries that had contributed.

IX. Activities of international organizations relevant to the Convention

79. A representative of WHO presented the organization's air pollution activities, including the WHO ambient air quality database, which contained annual means for coarse (PM₁₀) and/or fine (PM_{2.5}) particulate matter covering about 3,000 human settlements in 103 countries for the years 2008–2015. He also provided information on: estimates for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals; work on the review of evidence of air pollution effects on health, including through the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution and the work on the air quality guidelines; pilot projects in Accra and Kathmandu; and the BreatheLife communications campaign. The AirQ+ software tool for health risk assessment of air pollution would soon be available in Russian. A first global conference on air pollution and health would be held in Geneva on 30 October and 1 November 2018.

80. A representative of WMO highlighted the cooperation between EMEP and relevant WMO bodies. She reported on the outcomes of the Global Atmosphere Watch Symposium 2017 (10–13 April 2017), the seventeenth Science Summit (20–22 October 2017) and the seventeenth session of the WMO Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (23–24 October 2017), all held in Geneva. She also informed participants about an expert group on low-cost sensor assessment, a new programme to provide integrated services for megacities and large urban complexes and capacity-building projects. She highlighted the support provided by WMO to the climate negotiations and emphasized the importance and benefits of combined climate and air quality policies.

81. A representative of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury presented the main outcomes of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Geneva, 24–29 September 2017), such as the adoption of guidance documents, including in relation to emissions (best available techniques/best environmental practices), mandating expert groups to carry out further work on effectiveness evaluation and other technical issues, and decisions on guidance to the Global Environment Facility, the Specific International Programme, capacity-building and technical assistance and technology transfer. She invited Parties to nominate experts to work with expert groups and participate in the second session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Geneva from 24 to 29 November 2018.

82. A representative of the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention) provided information on the global monitoring plan and the first effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. The Second Global Persistent Organic Pollutants Monitoring Report, presented at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017), was a key input to the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention. It was essential for the third phase of the Global Monitoring Plan (2017–2023) to sustain, consolidate and develop existing cooperation and monitoring.

83. A representative of UNEP provided information on the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which adopted 11 resolutions and a ministerial declaration. In addition to the resolution on air pollution, she also highlighted various ongoing activities to improve air quality, such as work on reducing vehicle emissions, improving fuel quality, and on supporting electric mobility. She also highlighted support provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina to install monitoring stations.

84. The Executive Body took note of the information provided by representatives of the secretariat to the Minamata Convention, the secretariat to the Stockholm Convention, UNEP, WHO, and WMO.

X. Other business

85. A representative of Sweden briefed participants on the organization of the Saltjöbaden VI workshop in Gothenburg in March 2018. The objectives of the workshop would be to discuss and outline directions for future international collaboration on air pollution; provide recommendations to international organizations, countries and other communities on ways forward; and build on experiences from earlier Saltjöbaden workshops. There would be five parallel sessions focusing on: clean air in cities; clean air globally; clean air in the Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia region; clean air – ecosystems and climate; and clean air – sectors and sources. He invited Parties to participate in the workshop and to encourage younger colleagues to join the early career workshop, immediately preceding it (18–19 March 2018).

86. A representative of Canada provided information on the Global Methane Forum (Toronto, Canada, 16–18 April 2018), and invited Parties to participate.

87. A representative of Bulgaria provided information on the twenty-first European Forum on Eco-innovation (Sofia, 5–6 February 2018), which would be jointly organized with the European Commission. As the focus of the Forum would be on air quality, he invited Parties, and especially Parties from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, to participate.

88. A representative of the European Union reported on the European Clean Air Forum (Paris, 16–17 November 2017), which had focused on three main themes: clean air in cities; agriculture and air pollution; and clean air business opportunities. A synthesis report of the outcomes of the Forum would be available soon. The next Clean Air Forum would be organized in 2019.

XI. Adoption of decisions taken at the thirty-seventh session

89. The Executive Body adopted its decisions and agreed on the recommendations of its thirty-seventh session.

Annex I**[English only]****List of meetings and official documents for the period
2018–2019****A. List of meetings between the thirty-seventh and thirty-ninth (inclusive)
sessions of the Executive Body****2018***February*

EMEP Steering Body and Working Group on Effects Bureaux meeting (Madrid, 19 (afternoon only)–22 February)

May

Implementation Committee, fortieth session (Madrid, 16–18 May)

Working Group on Strategies and Review, fifty-sixth session (Geneva, 22–25 May)

September

Implementation Committee, forty-first session (Geneva, 10–13 September)

EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, fourth joint session (Geneva, 10 (afternoon only)–14 September (morning only))

December

Executive Body, thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 10 (afternoon only)–13 December²)

Executive Body Bureau (Geneva, 10 December (morning only)) Additional Bureau meetings may be scheduled throughout the year, if necessary.

2019*March*

EMEP Steering Body and Working Group on Effects Bureaux meeting (25–28 March, tentative)

May

Implementation Committee, forty-second session (location and exact date to be determined)

Working Group on Strategies and Review, fifty-seventh session (Geneva, 21–24 May)

September

Implementation Committee (forty-third session) (Geneva, exact date to be determined)

² Following the session, the Bureau requested to extend the thirty-eighth session until 14 December to accommodate the consideration of additional agenda items.

EMEP Steering Body and Working Group on Effects, fifth joint session (Geneva, 9 (afternoon only)–13 (morning only) September (tentative))

December

Executive Body, thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9 (afternoon only)–13 (morning only) December (tentative))

Executive Body Bureau (back to back with the Executive Body session). Additional Bureau meetings may be scheduled throughout the year, if necessary

B. List of official documents for the sessions of the Executive Body and the main subsidiary bodies

2018

Working Group on Strategies and Review (fifty-sixth session)

Agenda

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

Report of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

Proposed updates and revisions to the long-term strategy for the Convention

Proposed revised mandates of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (fourth joint session)

Agenda

Report of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects on their fourth joint session

Joint report by the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

Measurements and Modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling)

Integrated assessment modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling)

Emission inventories (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections)

Present state of emission data (report of the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections)

Hemispheric transport of air pollution (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution)

Activities of the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

Review of adjustment applications

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Acidification of Rivers and Lakes

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems

Technical report of International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends

Technical report of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution

Technical report of the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling

Thematic report on critical loads update, including summary of the 2017 Coordination Centre for Effects report

Thematic report on new evaluation of global source-receptor relationships according to HTAP2 experiments

Financial and budgetary matters

Executive Body (thirty-eighth session)

Agenda

Report of the Executive Body on its thirty-eighth session

Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

Report of the Implementation Committee

Review of compliance with reporting obligations

Draft updated long-term strategy for the Convention

Updated mandates for task forces under the Working Group on Strategies and Review

Updated mandates for the task forces and centres under the EMEP Steering Body

Updated mandates for the task forces and centres under the Working Group on Effects

Updated methods and procedures for the technical reviews of air pollutant emission inventories reported under the Convention

2019

Working Group on Strategies and Review (fifty-seventh session)

Agenda

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

Report of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues

Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

Draft 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention: policy related aspects and elements

Proposed elements for the review of the amended Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone³

EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (fifth joint session)

Agenda

Report of the fifth joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

Joint report by the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

Measurements and Modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling)

Integrated assessment modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling)

Emission inventories (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections)

Present state of emission data (report of the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections)

Hemispheric transport of air pollution (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution)

Activities of the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

Review of adjustment applications

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Acidification of Rivers and Lakes

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems

Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends

Technical report of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution

Technical report of the Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling

Thematic report on the contribution of long-range transport to air pollution in cities

Thematic report on ecosystem monitoring

Thematic report on the mitigation of persistent organic pollutants

Financial and budgetary matters

³ Following the assumed entry into force in 2018.

Executive Body (thirty-ninth session)

Agenda

Report of the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body

Draft 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

Report of the Implementation Committee

Review of compliance with reporting obligations

Updated EMEP monitoring strategy

Updated strategy for EMEP

Updated strategy for effects-oriented activities

Annex II

Decisions adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session

Decision 2017/1 Compliance with reporting obligations

The Executive Body,

Acting in accordance with paragraph 11 of the structure and functions and procedures for review of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,¹

1. *Takes* note of the information contained in the report of the Implementation Committee with respect to compliance by Parties with their reporting obligations under the Convention and its protocols, identified on the basis of information provided by the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections;²

2. *Notes with regret* that a high number of Parties have not submitted complete data in the 2015, 2016 and/or 2017 reporting cycles;

3. *Reminds* all Parties of their reporting obligations under the Convention and its protocols, as set out in decision 2013/4, to report emission data in accordance with the new reporting guidelines, which came into effect on 1 January 2015;

4. *Urges* all Parties to comply with their reporting obligations under the Convention and its protocols.

Decision 2017/2 Compliance by Norway with the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (ref. 26/13 (NH₃))

The Executive Body,

Acting in accordance with paragraph 11 of the structure and functions and procedures for review of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,³

1. *Notes* the recommendations of the Implementation Committee in its twentieth report⁴ concerning compliance by Norway with its obligation under article 3, paragraph 1, of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) with respect to ammonia emissions, following the referral by the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Committee's structure and functions and the procedure for review;

2. *Notes with concern* that, in spite of the efforts made, Norway failed to fulfil its obligation to maintain its annual emissions of ammonia in accordance with the ceiling

¹ See ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1, decision 2012/25, annex.

² See ECE/EB.AIR/2017/5 and the informal note by the secretariat on compliance with reporting obligations submitted to the Executive Body's thirty-seventh session.

³ See ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1, decision 2012/25, annex.

⁴ ECE/EB.AIR/2017/3, paras. 74–77.

specified in annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol, as required by article 3, paragraph 1, of the Protocol;

3. *Requests* Norway to provide the Implementation Committee, through the secretariat, by 31 July 2018, with:

- (a) A quantitative assessment of the effects of current and planned policy measures;
- (b) A timetable specifying the year by which Norway expects to be in compliance;

4. *Requests* the Implementation Committee to review the progress and timetable of Norway, and to report to the Executive Body thereon at its thirty-eighth session in 2018;

5. *Urges* Norway to fulfil its obligation under the Gothenburg Protocol as soon as possible.

Decision 2017/3

Adjustments under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to account for changes in the membership of the European Union

The Executive Body,

Acting in accordance with paragraph 11 of the structure and functions and procedures for review of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,⁵

Recalling its decisions 2013/14 and 2016/4 concerning compliance by the European Union with the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol),

Also recalling paragraph 37 of its report on its thirty-sixth session,⁶ in which the European Union was requested to consider ways forward regarding possible procedures by which the ceilings of the Gothenburg Protocol could be adjusted to reflect European Union membership, and to report back to the Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session,

Noting that article 13, paragraph 2, of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended provides a procedure for a Party to propose an adjustment of its ceilings listed in annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol, but that the methodologies set out in Executive Body Decisions 2012/3 and 2012/12 on adjustments would not apply to an adjustment of these ceilings to reflect changes in the membership of the European Union,

1. *Decides*, in accordance with article 13, paragraph 2, of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended and provisionally applied pursuant to decision 2012/4, to establish a methodology for adjustment of the ceilings listed for the European Community in annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol in the event of changes in the membership of the European Union, as follows:

- (a) Where a signatory or Party to the original Gothenburg Protocol accedes to the European Union, the European Union ceiling for each pollutant under annex II of the original Gothenburg Protocol shall be the sum of: (i) the European Union ceiling before the accession in question, and (ii) the ceiling of the acceding signatory or Party. In case a signatory or Party does not have emissions ceilings in annex II, the European Union shall submit a proposal for

⁵ See ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1, decision 2012/25, annex.

⁶ ECE/EB.AIR/137.

consideration by the Executive Body outlining the additional emissions for each pollutant that should be added to the European Union ceiling;

(b) Where a signatory or Party to the original Gothenburg Protocol leaves the European Union, the European Union ceiling for each pollutant under annex II to the original Gothenburg Protocol shall be the difference between: (i) the European Union ceiling before the leaving in question, and (ii) the ceiling of the leaving signatory or Party;

2. *Also decides* that the European Union may submit proposed adjustments using the above methodology in writing to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, who shall communicate the proposals to all Parties. The Parties shall discuss any proposed adjustments at the next session of the Executive Body, provided that those proposals have been circulated by the Executive Secretary to the Parties at least 90 days in advance;

3. *Further decides* that, in accordance with article 13, paragraph 2, of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended, prior to discussion of the proposed adjustments by the Executive Body the proposals shall be reviewed by the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), in conjunction with other appropriate technical bodies under EMEP, on the basis of the supporting documentation and consistency with the methodology contained in this decision, which shall forward its findings to the Executive Body.

Decision 2017/4

Further work by the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision 2016/1 on the establishment of an ad hoc policy review group of experts (policy review group) on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,

Taking into account that the policy review group presented its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-fifth session as requested in decision 2016/1,

Considering the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its fifty-fifth session,⁷

Recalling the report of the policy review group contained in document ECE.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1,

Noting the highlights of proposed updates to the long-term strategy for the Convention submitted by the policy review group to the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body,⁸

Reiterating the importance of the long-term strategy for the Convention,

1. *Mandates* the policy review group to elaborate a draft revised long-term strategy, in consultation with the Executive Body Bureau, using as guidance the elements agreed by the Executive Body at its thirty-seventh session,⁹ and comments made by Parties during the session as reflected in the report of the session, and taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-fifth session

⁷ ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/118.

⁸ ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4.

⁹ ECE/EB.AIR/140, annex III.

and the longer-term recommendations of the policy review group contained in document ECE.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1, as appropriate;

2. *Requests* the policy review group to submit the draft revised long-term strategy for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-sixth session in May 2018 and to report thereon to the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth session in December 2018;

3. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to submit its recommendations on the draft revised long-term strategy to the Executive Body at its thirty-eighth session for consideration and adoption at that session, as appropriate.

Annex III

Elements for consideration by the policy review group in carrying out its tasks

A. Process, content and guiding principles

1. The aim is to agree on an updated long-term strategy at the thirty-eighth session of the Executive Body.
2. The suggested time frame for the revised long-term strategy is 2030, but may include, where appropriate, guidance over a longer period up to 2050.
3. The revised long-term strategy could have the following five chapters:
 - I. Introduction;
 - II. Strengths and successes of the Convention;
 - III. Remaining challenges for human health and ecosystems;
 - IV. Priorities for future action;
 - V. Conclusion.
4. The following four priorities, based on the priorities proposed by the policy review group, should guide the update of the long-term strategy: (a) implementation of the Convention and all the current protocols; (b) ratification of the three latest protocols; (c) increased cooperation with countries and regions outside of the ECE region; and (d) any further review and possible revision and extension of the protocols.

B. Future focus and priorities

5. The highest priority for the Convention should continue to be to maximize its impact and that of its protocols by increasing ratification and implementation, notably of the three latest, amended protocols: the Gothenburg Protocol, the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
6. The Convention and its protocols should remain open to countries in the ECE region only, but improved cooperation with other countries, regions and organizations should be pursued within available resources in order to advance efforts to address air pollution at a broader geographic scale. The Convention could be a model for other regions.
7. The Batumi Action for Cleaner Air should be used as a means of encouraging more national action on air pollution within and outside the ECE region.
8. The health and ecosystem impacts of air pollution measures taken at the regional scale on local and urban air quality should be assessed, and the impacts of air pollution at the hemispheric scale on regional and local air quality should be further investigated.
9. The Convention should promote the exchange of data and experiences of the effectiveness of measures taken at national and local scale, and encourage mutual learning.
10. Monitoring and modelling activities on air pollution under EMEP should be further aligned with those for assessing impacts on health and ecosystems under the Working Group on Effects. In addition, the Convention should actively pursue making monitoring networks serve multiple clients (national and international) working on other issues (e.g., climate change, land-use and biodiversity management).

11. Interactions between air pollution and climate change should be further analysed and studied. This includes synergies between emission abatement measures targeting air pollutants and greenhouse gases, impacts on air quality from air pollutants that also have near-term climate impacts, and interactions between air pollution and climate change effects.

C. Future policy development

12. The Convention should continue to use the best available science and further develop the multi-effect multi-pollutant framework, and the Convention Parties should maintain and where necessary extend its scientific network in order keep the science base up to date. The Convention should also continue its scientific work on heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants.

13. While the Convention's focus is on air pollution, it should strive for an integrated approach to environmental policy. In particular, the following three interrelated policy fields should be taken into account: (a) ground-level ozone-nitrogen-climate-biodiversity interactions; (b) integrated nitrogen management including its impacts for health; and (c) climate change co-benefits of air pollution policies and measures and effects of climate policies on air pollution.

14. Parties should consider reviewing the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012, or portions thereof. Following the entry into force of the amendments, based on the results of this review, they should also consider updating the protocol.

15. Any future review of the Gothenburg Protocol could consider the need to further reduce emissions of the pollutants currently covered by this protocol, including reduction of ammonia emissions. It could also consider appropriate steps towards reducing emissions of black carbon, methane (as an ozone precursor), and emissions from shipping.

16. Any move towards an amended protocol should be accompanied by a focused drive towards ratification of the 2012 amended protocol. The timing and design of any new obligations should be considered carefully to ensure they support and encourage ratifications of any future amendment.
