

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Thirty-seventh session

Geneva, 11–14 December 2017

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

Funding flows and mechanisms under the Convention

Submitted by the secretariat

Summary

This note was prepared by the secretariat to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution at the request of the Bureau of the Executive Body. It contains basic information about the funding flows and mechanisms under the Convention. In particular, the note provides 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 clarifies the sources of funding for the secretariat and the capacity-building activities managed by it.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction.....	2
II. Secretariat.....	2
III. Meetings of Convention bodies.....	2
A. Sessions of the Executive Body and the main subsidiary bodies.....	2
B. Funding of task forces and expert groups	3
IV. Funding of scientific activities under the Convention.....	3
V. Funding of capacity building, awareness raising, outreach and communication activities	6
Annex:	
I. List of task forces and expert groups (as of 31 October 2017).....	7
II. List of centres (as of 31 October 2017).....	8

I. Introduction

1. The present note was prepared by the secretariat to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) at the request of the Bureau of the Executive Body. It contains basic information about the funding flows and mechanisms under the Convention. In particular, the note provides basic information about co-funding – through the trust fund managed by the secretariat - of activities carried out by the scientific centres under the Convention and of capacity building, awareness raising activities, outreach and communication activities by the secretariat.

2. The note provides complementary information on financial flows and mechanisms within the Convention to the one presented annually to the Executive Body in the document: Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention.¹

II. Secretariat

3. The secretariat of the Convention is provided by the UNECE (Environment Division) through the regular UN budget. The secretariat organizes the sessions of the Executive Body, the main subsidiary bodies and their Bureaux, prepares documentation for the session, liaises with Parties and other Organizations as necessary, requests and collects mandatory and voluntary contributions from Parties in accordance with the EMEP Protocol and decisions of the Executive Body, prepares the budgets, contracts and disbursements necessary for the funding of various activities under the Convention, including the participation of eligible participants. It participates in meeting of task forces and experts groups and other relevant meetings to present information and promote the Convention, as appropriate.

4. The secretariat for the Convention works in cooperation with other units and services of the UNECE secretariat and the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) dealing with travel, finance, conference services, translation and interpretation, public information, etc. The secretariat manages the Convention webpage and arranges for Convention publications, press releases and other communication activities and materials.

5. The resources provided through the UN regular budget are limited. Depending on the level of activities and number of parties, bodies and meetings, the secretariat resources need to be supplemented by voluntary contributions by Parties.

III. Meetings of Convention bodies

A. Sessions of the Executive Body and the main subsidiary bodies

6. The sessions of the Executive Body, the Working Group on Strategies and Review and the Steering Body to the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), the Working Group on Effects are organized and held in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, in accordance with UN rules and procedures and subject to availability of rooms and interpretation quotas. The

¹ See e.g. ECE/EB.AIR/2017/1 for the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43519>.

rooms, the translation of documents into the three official languages and the cost of interpretation services are provided to the Parties through the UN regular budget without any additional costs to Parties.

7. It is possible for these sessions to be hosted by a Party to the Convention. In such cases, host country agreements are signed between the UNECE and the respective country, which determine the costs, services and standards to be provided by the host country in relation to the meeting. It should be noted that the travel costs of all secretariat staff, are covered by the host country.

8. The meetings of the Bureaux of the subsidiary bodies and the Implementation Committee can also be held in the Palais des Nations, subject to UN rules and procedures. As these meetings require no interpretation and official documentation, they are more frequently hosted by Parties and held in alternative locations. In this case, the cost of secretariat travel to the meetings is covered by the hosting Party in line with Executive Body decision 2006/12.

B. Funding of task forces and expert groups

9. The annual meetings of the Convention task forces and expert groups including related (often back to back) scientific workshops, conferences or symposia, are organized by the lead Parties usually supported by other interested Parties and partner organizations. The funding for these events are provided by the Parties and the partner organizations involved. The list of Convention task forces and expert groups is presented in Annex I.

10. The lead countries and their responsibilities, host institutions, broad areas of activities, key objectives and functions of the task forces and expert groups are specified in the respective terms of references (mandates). The task forces and expert group discuss and report on their current and planned activities during their annual meetings and during the annual joint sessions of the Steering Body to EMEP, the Working Group on Effects and the Working Group on Strategies and Review. In the long term, the activities and deliverables are aligned with the Long-term strategy for the Convention and Action Plan for its Implementation² and the strategies for EMEP and the Working Group on Effects.³ In the short term, the specific activities and their deliverables are included in the bi-annual workplan for the implementation of the Convention.

11. The functioning of the task forces and the expert groups depends entirely on the financial support (direct and in-kind) of the host and other Parties and partner organizations. The task force activities are usually supported by and complimentary to various domestic and international activities and research projects. The travel of secretariat staff to such meetings is also covered by the host country/lead Party.

IV. Funding of scientific activities under the Convention

12. Scientific activities in the workplan of the Convention are implemented by the established scientific centres and are funded through mandatory contributions (EMEP Protocol), voluntary contributions and in-kind contributions by Parties. The secretariat collects the contributions and provides the available funding to the scientific centres in accordance with UN financial procedures.

² See ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1

³ See ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2009/15, ECE/EB.AIR/2009/16/Rev.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2009/17/Rev.1.

A. Funding of EMEP centres

13. These centres are funded through the mandatory contributions to EMEP and through in-kind contributions from the host countries.

14. As of 31 October 2017, 47 Parties of Convention ratified the EMEP Protocol.⁴ According to the provisions of the EMEP Protocol, the financing of EMEP shall cover the annual costs of the international centres cooperating within EMEP for the activities appearing in the workplan of EMEP. The financing of EMEP shall consist of mandatory contributions, supplemented by voluntary contributions. The mandatory contributions shall be made on an annual basis by all Parties to the Protocol which are within the geographical scope of EMEP. Voluntary contributions may be made by the Parties or Signatories to the Protocol, even if their territory lies outside the geographical scope of EMEP. Mandatory and voluntary contributions in cash shall be deposited in the General Trust Fund established by ECE. The mandatory contributions shall be made in accordance with the terms of the Annex to the EMEP Protocol. The Annex includes the EMEP scale of contributions (percentage of the annual EMEP budget to be covered by each Party to the EMEP Protocol) that is calculated based on the United Nations assessment rates⁵ updated regularly by the UN General Assembly. Amendments to the Annex are adopted by consensus of the Executive Body.

15. The General Trust Fund for the EMEP Protocol is managed by the secretariat of the Convention hosted by ECE. Based on the decisions of the Executive Body on the budget and the current EMEP scale of contributions, the secretariat informs the Parties about their annual scale of contributions to EMEP for the current year. In the letters addressed to the heads of delegations, the secretariat also reminds about any outstanding payments from previous years. The Parties to the EMEP Protocol are requested to make their contributions in the first half of each year.

16. Following the decisions of the Executive Body, the secretariat established open-ended contracts between ECE and the national institutions hosting the EMEP centres on the financial mechanism to co-fund the centres' operations through the ECE general trust fund. The split of the annual budget among the EMEP centres follows the decision of the Executive Body on the split of the annual EMEP budget. The parts of the EMEP budget for CEIP and CIAM are transferred through the MSC-W part. The centres report on the implementation of the respective parts of the EMEP workplan and on the use of the EMEP budget at the joint sessions of the Steering Body to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. The ECE checks the annual financial statements prepared by the centres.

17. The five scientific centres under EMEP are listed in Annex II. The host countries and their responsibilities, host institutions, broad areas of activities, key objectives and functions of the EMEP centres are specified in the respective terms of references (mandates). The centres discuss and report on their current and planned activities during the annual meetings of the respective EMEP task forces (CCC⁶, MSC-E and MSC-W at TFMM meetings, CIAM at TFIAM and TFHTAP meetings and CEIP at TFEIP meetings) and during the annual joint sessions of the Steering Body to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. In the long term, the activities and deliverables are aligned with the Long-term strategy for the Convention and the Action Plan for its implementation, the Revised

⁴ See https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-1-a&chapter=27&clang=_en.

⁵ UN assessment rate" means a Party's rate for the financial year in question in the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations.

⁶ For abbreviations and acronyms used, please see Annex I and II

Strategy for EMEP for 2010-2019 and the EMEP Monitoring Strategy 2010-2019.⁷ In the short term, the specific activities and deliverables of the centres are included in the bi-annual workplans for the implementation of the Convention.

18. The functioning of the EMEP centres – to a large extent – depends on the financial support (direct and in-kind) of the host Parties. Although, there is no such obligation under the Convention, the respective host centres report on their own contributions to the centres' budgets. Other in-kind contributions come from various domestic and international research projects in which the centres participate. Information about the contributions is reported annually to the Steering Body to EMEP and to the Executive Body.

B. Funding of WGE centres

19. These centres are funded through voluntary contributions by Parties (in accordance with EB decision 2000/3) and by in-kind contributions from their host countries.

20. In its Decision 2000/3 the Executive Body established a system of voluntary contributions to co-fund the effects oriented work under the Convention. The system covered the eight centres listed in Annex II. The voluntary contributions in cash shall be deposited in the General Trust Fund established by ECE. The contributions shall be made in accordance with the terms of an annex to the decision. The Annex includes the scale of contributions (percentage of the annual WGE budget to be covered by each Party to the Convention) that is calculated based on the United Nations assessment rates updated regularly by the UN General Assembly. Amendments to the Annex are adopted by consensus of the Executive Body.

21. The General Trust Fund for the Convention is managed by the secretariat of the Convention. Based on the decisions of the Executive Body on the budget and the current WGE scale of contributions, the secretariat informs the Parties about their annual scale of contributions to the ECE trust fund for the current year. In the letters addressed to the heads of delegations, the Parties are requested to make their contributions in the first half of each year. As of 31 October 2017, there were 51 Parties to the Convention. According to decision 2000/3 and their subsequent updates, the co-financing of the effects oriented activities shall cover the annual costs of the eight international centres under the WGE carrying out the activities included in the respective part of the Convention workplan. The contributions may be earmarked for specific activities or for a given centre or centres. The non-earmarked contributions collected within a calendar year are divided equally among the eight centres. The earmarked contributions are forwarded to the earmarked centre.

22. Following the decision 2000/3, the secretariat established multi-year contracts between ECE and the national institutions hosting the WGE centres, on the financial mechanism to co-fund the centres' operations through the ECE trust fund. The centres report on the implementation of the respective parts of the WGE workplan and on the use of the WGE budget at the joint sessions of the Steering Body to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. The ECE checks the annual financial statements prepared by the centres.

23. The scientific centres under the Working Group on Effects (WGE), including six centres for International Co-operative Programmes (ICPs) and two other centres (CIAM and WHO Regional Office for Europe), are listed in Annex II. The host countries and their responsibilities, host institutions, broad areas of activities, key objectives and functions of these centres are specified in the respective terms of references (mandates). The centres discuss and report on their current and planned activities during the annual meetings of the

⁷ See footnote 3.

respective task forces and during the annual joint sessions of the Steering Body to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects. Following the decision of the Executive Body⁸, the funding of the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling is covered by the two funding mechanisms (EMEP and WGE). Unlike the EMEP centres, the six ICP centres and the WHO centre, are integrated with the respective task forces. In the long term, the activities and deliverables of the WGE centres are aligned with the Long-term strategy for the Convention and Action Plan for its implementation and the Revised Long-term strategy of the effects-oriented activities. In the short term, the specific activities and deliverables of the WGE centres are included in the bi-annual workplans for the implementation of the Convention.

V. Funding of capacity building, awareness raising, outreach and communication activities

24. Capacity-building, awareness raising and outreach and communication activities included in the biannual workplans for the implementation of the Convention are funded through voluntary contributions. Since 2012, thanks to contributions from several Parties (European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation and Switzerland) the secretariat established extra-budgetary posts to manage and carry out capacity building, awareness raising, outreach and communication activities. These activities are among priorities of the Convention and are included in the Long-term strategy for the Convention and bi-annual workplans of the Convention. The capacity building and awareness raising activities are focused on countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and aim at supporting those countries in ratification and implementation of the Convention and its protocols. On the other hand, the outreach and communication activities cover all Convention Parties, partner organizations and media. The main objective of these activities is to stimulate air pollution abatement within and outside the ECE region and to promote the Convention and its achievements. When carrying the activities, the secretariat cooperates directly with Parties, various groups, centres and experts in the Convention.

25. The results of the capacity building, awareness raising, outreach and communication activities are regularly presented at sessions of the Executive Body and its subsidiary bodies and reported to donor Parties following the provisions of the respective contracts between Parties and ECE.

⁸ Executive Body Decision 2000/3 and Recommendation on the financing of core activities in 2001-2003.

Annex I

List of task forces and expert groups (as of 31 October 2017)

A. Task forces under the Working Group on Strategies and Review:

1. The Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (TFTEI) is co-lead by France and Italy with technical support provided by the Interprofessional Technical Centre for Studies on Atmospheric Pollution (CITEPA) and the French-German Institute for Environmental Research (IFARE), in cooperation with the French Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME) and the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development. The task force secretariat is supported by France.
2. The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN) is co-lead by the United Kingdom, Denmark and Portugal. The secretariat is supported by Denmark and the United Kingdom.

B. Task forces under the Steering Body to EMEP

1. The Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projection (TFEIP) is co-lead by the United Kingdom, the European Environment Agency and Finland. The task force secretariat is supported by the United Kingdom.
2. The Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling (TFIAM) is co-lead by the Netherlands and Sweden. The secretariat is supported by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria.
3. The Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (TFMM) is co-lead by France and the World Meteorological Organization. The secretariat is supported by France.
4. The Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TFHTAP) is co-lead by the United States of America and the European Union. The secretariat is supported by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

C. Task forces and expert groups under the Working Group on Effects

1. The Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution (Task Force on Health - TFH) is lead by the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO). The task force secretariat is supported by WHO, Germany and Switzerland.
2. The Joint Expert Group on Dynamic Modelling is lead by Sweden. The secretariat is supported by Sweden.
3. For the list of task forces that are linked to activities of the International Cooperative Programmes, see Annex II.

Annex II

List of centres (as of 31 October 2017)

A. Centres under the Steering Body to EMEP

1. The Chemical Coordinating Centre (CCC) is hosted by the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU).
2. The Meteorological Synthesizing Centre East (MSC-E) is supported by the Russian Federation.
3. The Meteorological Synthesizing Centre West (MSC-W) is hosted by the Norwegian Meteorological Institute (MET.NO).
4. The Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections (CEIP) is hosted by the Austrian Environment Agency (UBA).
5. The Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM) is hosted by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria.

B. Centres and task forces under the Working Group on Effects

1. The International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops (ICP Vegetation) is lead by the United Kingdom. The Programme Centre is hosted by the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology. The task force of ICP Vegetation is supported by the United Kingdom.
2. The International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems (ICP Integrated Monitoring) is co-lead by Sweden and Finland. The Programme Centre is hosted by the Finnish Environment Institute. The task force of ICP Integrated Monitoring is supported by Sweden.
3. The International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP Forests) is lead by Germany. The Programme Coordinating Centre is hosted by the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries (Germany). The task force of ICP Forests is supported by Germany.
4. The International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of the Effects of Air Pollution on Rivers and Lakes (ICP Waters) is lead by Norway. The Programme Centre is hosted by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA). The task force of ICP Waters is supported by Norway.
5. The International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, Including Historic and Cultural Monuments (ICP Materials) is co-lead by Sweden and Italy. The Programme Main Research Centre is hosted by Swerea KIMAB AB (Sweden). The task force of ICP Materials is supported by Sweden and Italy.
6. The International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends (ICP Modelling and Mapping) is co-lead by France and the Netherlands. The Programme Coordination Centre for Effects is hosted by Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (until the end of 2017). The task force of ICP Modelling and Mapping is supported by France. Efforts are made to find a successor to the Coordination Centre for Effects.
7. The Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling (CIAM) is hosted by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria.

8. The Centre for work on the health effects of air pollution: at the World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe, Bonn, Germany.

Funding flows under the Convention

