



UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
Working Group on Strategies and Review, Fifty-fifth session
31 May – 2 June 2017
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Salle V

Informal document 4
Agenda item 6 (b): Information sharing by Parties
on the implementation of the Convention:
Special session on Agriculture and Air Pollution

Agriculture and Air Pollution

Special session

held in the framework of the Working Group on Strategies and Review

1 June 2017

Palais des Nations, Salle V

organized by
the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN) and the secretariat
to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Special Session Programme

As of 31 May 2017

10:00 – 10:10

OPENING REMARKS

- Jennifer Kerr, Chair, Working Group on Strategies and Review
- Secretariat, Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

SESSION 1 10:10 – 10:40

SETTING THE SCENE: BACKGROUND AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Chair: TFRN Co-Chair Tommy Dalgaard (Denmark)

- **Setting the scene: Multiple linkages between agriculture and air pollution (5 min)**
Mark Sutton, Co-Chair (United Kingdom) of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen
- **UNECE Guidance on ammonia emission abatement from agricultural sources and on nitrogen budgets (10 min)**
Tommy Dalgaard, Co-Chair (Denmark), Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen
- **Obligations under the Gothenburg Protocol and their implementation – results of the questionnaire on the national ammonia codes of good practice (10 min)**
Claudia Marques dos Santos Cordovil, Co-Chair (Portugal) of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

Q&A

SESSION 2 10:40 – 11:10

NATIONAL ADVISORY CODES OF GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE TO CONTROL AMMONIA EMISSIONS

Chair: TFRN Co-Chair Claudia Marques dos Santos Cordovil (Portugal)

- **The development of a National Ammonia Code by Belgium/Flanders (10 min)**
David Knight, Environmental Department, Flemish Region, Belgium
- **The translation of the UNECE Framework Code into German, in cooperation with Austria and Switzerland, and the development of a national brochure for farmers (10 min)**
Markus Geupel, German Environment Agency

Q&A

11:10 – 11:30 Coffee Break

SESSION 3 11:30 – 13:00

NATIONAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE AMMONIA EMISSIONS

Chair: TFRN Co-Chair Claudia Marques dos Santos Cordovil (Portugal)

- **The agricultural advisory system in Poland** (10 min)
Kinga Majewska, Department of Air Protection, Ministry of Environment, Poland
- **Approaches to reducing ammonia emissions in Canada** (10 min)
Shabtai Bittmann, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- **The Farming Ammonia Reduction Grant Scheme implemented by the United Kingdom** (10 min)
Fionnuala Byrne, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom
- **Reduction of ammonia emission in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia** (10 min)
Natalia Kozlova, Russian Federation, Co-Chair of the Expert Panel on Nitrogen in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

Q&A

Discussion – Next steps towards developing national ammonia codes

Questions for discussion:

- *What are the countries' plans with regard to the establishment of national ammonia codes and the taking of dedicated measures to achieve ammonia emission reductions?*
- *Which obstacles do countries face in the establishment of national advisory codes to abate ammonia emissions? How could these obstacles be addressed?*
- *Which support do Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol require to proceed with the establishment of national ammonia codes?*

13:00 - 15:00 Lunch Break

SESSION 4 15:00 – 16:30

AGRICULTURE AND AIR POLLUTION – LINKAGES AND CHALLENGES

Chair: Mark Sutton, Co-Chair, Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (UK)

- **Developing consensus on the need to improve nitrogen use efficiency** (8 min)
Tiffani Stephanie, Association Fertilizers Europe
- **Ammonia, particles and health** (12 min)
Bert Brunekreef, Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences, University Utrecht

- **Impact of ozone pollution on agricultural production** (8 min)
Gina Mills, Head of the Programme Coordination Centre for the International Cooperative Programme on the Effects of Air Pollution on Vegetation and Crops

Q&A

Panel discussion – Challenges and opportunities related to addressing ammonia and nitrogen emissions from agriculture

Parties to the Convention and the Gothenburg Protocol and other States will be invited to engage in interactive discussions and share their related experiences, lessons learned and good practices. They will be specifically invited to consider the challenges and the opportunities related to addressing emissions from agriculture and the linkages between various agricultural emission sources and impacts.

- **Switzerland: Nitrogen management in Swiss agriculture** (8 min)
Harald Menzi, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
- **Latest developments in EU nitrogen management policy, and future perspectives** (8 min)
Scott Brockett, European Commission, Directorate-General Environment
- **The Danish Nitrogen Quota system** (8 min)
Christian Lange Fogh, Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark, Environment Protection Agency
- **Future strategies in the Russian Federation to improve nitrogen management in agriculture and reducing losses from air and water** (8 min)
Sergey Lukin, Co-Chair of the Expert Panel on Nitrogen in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

Discussion

Questions for discussion with all participants:

- *Which national policies and measures do countries implement to reduce emissions from agricultural sources, considering the linkages between various agricultural emission sources and impacts?*
- *Which national examples could be considered good practices, and how can countries best take these into account when considering application to their national circumstances?*
- *Which educational measures can be envisaged, to raise awareness of the broader population with regard to the nitrogen cycle and the wider linkages with climate and health concerns?*
- *Which possibilities present themselves for further integration across the policy areas nitrogen, air quality, water and climate?*

16:30 – 16:50 Coffee Break

SESSION 5 16:50 – 17:45

POLICY AWARENESS AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Chair: WSGR Vice-Chair Till Spranger (Germany)

- **Climate Action on Agriculture – Climate and Clean Air Coalition Agriculture Initiative** (8 min)
Nathan Borgford-Parnell, Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
- **UNEP Global Programme of Action on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based activities** (8 min)
Christopher Cox, United Nations Environment Programme
- **GEF project on improving understanding of the global nitrogen cycle and working towards the establishment of an International Nitrogen Management System** (8 min)
Mark Sutton, Co-Chair (United Kingdom), Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen
- **Future needs for nitrogen policy for South Asia in the context of air pollution, water pollution and climate resilience** (8 min)
Pulakesh Mondal, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme

Discussion

Parties and other States will be invited to consider opportunities to raise awareness and promote synergies with the work under the Convention at other forums, such as CCAC and UNEP, including at the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, 4-6 December 2017), addressing pollution as a main theme.

17:45 – 18:00

Conclusions and recommendations – Co-Chairs' Summary

The Special Session on Agriculture and Air Pollution organized in the framework of the 55th session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR) will be followed exceptionally on 2 June 2017 by a special meeting of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (TFRN). The TFRN meeting to be held in room S4 will run in parallel with the continued WGSR session (held in Salle V). The TFRN meeting will further consider country and stakeholder perspectives and take stock of the messages from the Working Group's Special Session. It will prepare the inputs contributing to the INMS process and the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, following the guidance received from the Working Group. WGSR delegates who are interested to attend part of the TFRN meeting, or to offer presentations are invited to contact the UNECE secretariat (air_meetings@unece.org) and the TFRN secretariat (tfrn@ceh.ac.uk).