Economic Commission for Europe

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

Thirty-eighth session
Geneva, 10–14 December 2018
Item 5 (c) and (e) of the provisional agenda
Review of implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan

Draft decisions of the Executive Body*

Submitted by the Implementation Committee and the secretariat

Summary

The document contains recommendations by the Implementation Committee to the Executive Body for the Convention for consideration at its thirty-eighth session, prepared in accordance with paragraph 9 of the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/113, Add.1, decision 2012/25, annex), in particular two draft decisions concerning compliance by Parties with their emission reduction obligations.

The document also contains a draft decision on designation of focal points, prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Executive Body.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.
Compliance by Liechtenstein with the Protocol on Heavy Metals (ref. 24/13 (Hg), 6/17 (Cd)) and of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 4/17 (dioxin/furan, PAH, HCB))

The Executive Body

Acting under paragraph 11 of the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee and the procedure for review (ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1, decision 2012/25, annex):

1. Recalls its decision 2014/5 concerning compliance by Liechtenstein with the Protocol on Heavy Metals (ref. 24/13 (Hg));

2. Notes the twenty-first report of the Implementation Committee on the follow-up to decision 2014/5 concerning compliance by Liechtenstein with its obligation under article 3, paragraph 1, of the Protocol on Heavy Metals with respect to mercury emissions (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/3, paras. 3–6);

3. Notes the twenty-first report of the Implementation Committee concerning compliance by Liechtenstein with its obligation under article 3, paragraph 1 of the Protocol on Heavy Metals with respect to cadmium emissions (paras. 50–53), following the referral by the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Implementation Committee, its structure and functions and procedures for review;

4. Notes the twenty-first report of the Implementation Committee concerning the compliance by Liechtenstein with its obligation under article 3, paragraph 5(a) of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs) with respect to emissions of dioxins/furans, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) and hexachlorobenzene (HCB) (paras. 39–43), following the referral by the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Implementation Committee, its structure and functions and procedures for review;

5. Notes with concern that, in spite of the efforts made, Liechtenstein still fails to fulfil its obligation to reduce the emissions of mercury, cadmium, dioxin/furan, PAH and HCB of the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol on POPs from their levels in 1990 by taking effective measures, as required;

6. Urges Liechtenstein to fulfil its obligations under the Protocol on Heavy Metals and the Protocol POPs as soon as possible;

7. Recommends Liechtenstein to seek advice from relevant bodies under the Convention as needed, including the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, and information provided at the thematic session on residential wood combustion and air pollution at the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 22–25 May 2018) (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/120, forthcoming);

8. Requests Liechtenstein to provide the Implementation Committee, through the secretariat, by 28 February 2019, with:

   a) Information on any additional measures that can be taken to reduce emissions of mercury, cadmium, dioxin/furan, PAH and HCB and a quantitative assessment of their effects;

   b) A timetable specifying the year by which Liechtenstein expects to be in compliance.

9. Decides to invite Liechtenstein to participate in one of the Committee’s meetings in 2019 to elaborate on the information provided pursuant to paragraph 8 above;

10. Requests the Implementation Committee to review the progress and timetable of Liechtenstein, and to report to the Executive Body thereon at its thirty-ninth session in 2019.
Compliance by Latvia with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (ref. 3/10 (HCB))

The Executive Body

Acting under paragraph 11 of the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee and the procedure for review (ECE/EB.AIR/113/Add.1, decision 2012/25, annex):

1. Recalls its decisions 2011/6, 2012/17 and 2014/7 concerning compliance by Latvia with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs);

2. Notes the twenty-first report of the Implementation Committee on the follow-up to decision 2014/7 on compliance by Latvia with its obligation under article 3, paragraph 5(a), of the Protocol on POPs (ECE/EB.AIR/2018/3, paras. 7-11);

3. Notes with concern that Latvia still fails to fulfil its obligation to reduce the emissions of hexachlorobenzene (HCB) listed in annex III of the Protocol from its level in 1990 by taking effective measures, as required by article 3, paragraph 5(a), of the Protocol on POPs;

4. Notes with regret that Latvia did not provide additional information requested by the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2017/3, para. 21);

5. Strongly urges Latvia to fulfil its obligation under the Protocol on POPs as soon as possible and to inform the Implementation Committee about the progress in reducing emissions of HCB and efforts of Latvia to comply with its obligations under the Protocol on POPs;

6. Decides to invite Latvia to participate in the Committee’s meetings in 2019 to elaborate on the information provided pursuant to paragraph 5 above;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to bring this matter to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, noting that the obligation to reduce emissions of HCB is a binding obligation in international law that was accepted by Latvia when it ratified the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2004;

8. Calls on Latvia to make a presentation to the next annual session of the Executive Body to report on its efforts to achieve compliance;

9. Requests the Implementation Committee to review the progress of Latvia towards compliance with its obligations under the Protocol on POPs, and to report to the Executive Body thereon at its thirty-ninth session in 2019.

Designation of focal points

The Executive Body

Recognizing the importance of facilitating communication concerning matters related to the Convention,

1. Calls on Parties to designate one or more national focal points for the Convention and, as appropriate contact persons for specific topics under its auspices, if they have not already done so, and to submit the relevant contact information to the secretariat, including any modifications or additions as they occur;

2. Invites non-Parties and interested organizations to designate focal points for the Convention and, as appropriate, contact persons for specific topics under its auspices, and to submit the relevant contact information to the secretariat, including any modifications or additions as they occur;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to maintain the list of focal points and contact persons up date and to post it on the Convention’s web-site to facilitate the sharing of information;

4. *Calls on* Parties to make appropriate internal arrangements so that the nominated focal points carry out the required tasks to promote and support activities related to the Convention within their countries/organizations. Focal points should facilitate and/or coordinate, *inter alia*:

   (a) Dissemination of information related to the Convention and other concerned national authorities, organizations and the general public, as applicable; and

   (b) Provision to the secretariat of relevant information that could be of use for other Parties and non-Parties in their implementation of the Convention.