

Informal Statement of the project *European Union Action on Black Carbon in the Arctic* supporting Mandatory Black Carbon Emissions Reporting

August 2018

This document is an informal statement relating to black carbon emissions reporting by the Parties to the UNECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (henceforth referred to as the Convention) submitted by the project team working on the *European Union Action on Black Carbon in the Arctic* (EUA-BCA, henceforth referred to as the Action)¹ to the EMEP SB.

The Action is funded by the European Union's Partnership Instrument to support international policy development aimed at reducing anthropogenic black carbon emissions which are accelerating climate change in the Arctic and creating health concerns. In particular, the Action was developed to support ongoing work on black carbon under the Convention and the Arctic Council and is being implemented by a consortium including the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) Secretariat; Carbon Limits, Norway; Environment Agency Austria (UBA); Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE); International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA); Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU); and Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL). The Action, which began in January 2018, aims to increase the knowledge base on black carbon emissions, increase awareness and international cooperation and influence international processes and policies leading to reduced emissions of black carbon.

The Action is, amongst other activities, reviewing the current status of international inventory and reporting systems for black carbon emissions, particularly the recommended inventory methods for- and the level of reporting of black carbon emissions under the Convention. Preliminary results of this review were discussed at the project's first workshop in May 2018. Despite a large number of the Convention Parties reporting voluntarily, it was concluded that the current lack of a mandatory reporting obligation for black carbon emissions under the Convention likely constitutes a significant obstacle to international efforts seeking to reduce (Arctic) regional and global black carbon emissions.

A technical review on mapping and gap identification of black carbon inventory and reporting systems in close cooperation with EMEP bodies will be a significant output of this EU Action. The review, which will contain recommendations for reporting of black carbon emissions, is currently under preparation and should be finalised by the end of 2018. Nonetheless, ahead of the review's publication **the Action's project team would like to express its support for the recommendations for mandatory black carbon reporting** made in the proposed updates and revisions to the long-term strategy for Convention (paragraph 50, page 9 ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2018/3) by the Executive Body's Working Group on Strategies and Review and by the Policy Review Group's policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (paragraph 52 (b) on page 15 ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3).

Given the significance of black carbon in terms of both human health and climate change, in particular the rapid and potentially irreversible impacts of black carbon in the Arctic, the current lack of reporting obligations under the Convention should be addressed as soon as possible. Therefore, the Action would hope that **the recommendation could be adopted at the upcoming Executive Body meeting to be held in December 2018** and furthermore **that mandatory reporting be instituted as soon as possible**. *Complex information on BC emissions and emission trends from all Parties to the Convention is a key step to taking further action on reducing climate change impacts in the Arctic and improving air quality and health.* The EU Action project team would be pleased to work with the designated EMEP bodies and Convention Parties on any follow-up work.

¹ <https://www.amap.no/eu-black-carbon-action>