

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Bureau of the Executive Body

Meeting

Geneva, 9 December 2019

Report of the meeting

I. Attendance

Bureau members: Ms. Anna Engleryd (Sweden, Chair), Mr. Sergey Vasiliev (Russian Federation), Mr. Richard Ballaman (Switzerland), Ms. Elizabeth Nichols (United States of America), Ms. Jennifer Kerr (Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review), Ms. Laurence Rouil (Chair of the EMEP Steering Body), Ms. Isaura Rabago (Chair of the Working Group on Effects) and Mr. Manfred Ritter (Chair of the Implementation Committee).

Observers: Ms. Susanne Lindahl (European Union).

II. Preparations for the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body

The Bureau discussed the provisional agenda of the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/143), the organization of the session, the list of documents and the decisions the Executive Body was expected to adopt.

The Bureau noted that the discussions on the treatment of the condensable part in particulate matter and on the review of compliance by Parties to the Gothenburg protocol during the transition period under agenda item 5(a), as well as those on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol under item 5(b) would be held in the afternoon on the first day of the session.

The Bureau agreed that the draft concept note for the Forum for international cooperation on air pollution (item 6 of the provisional agenda) would not be presented for adoption and would need to be further developed after the session based on the comments received. The text of the respective draft decision would need to be revised accordingly. The secretariat informed the Bureau about the options for involvement of UNECE with the Forum.

With respect to the proposal by the United States of America to amend the Gothenburg Protocol (item 11), the Bureau member from the Russian Federation welcomed it noting that the time restrictions posed a barrier for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia on the way to ratification.

The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review suggested on behalf of Canada that the need for amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Executive Body (item 12) and subsequent decision on any possible changes could be considered and taken next year.

III. Preparations for the fortieth anniversary special session

The secretariat informed the Bureau of the latest changes in the programme of the special session.

IV. Date, time and place for the next meeting

The next meeting of the Bureau will be held in Paris and is scheduled for the morning of 23 March 2020, back-to-back with the WGSR Bureau meeting, followed by the meeting of the Extended Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (24 (pm)-26 March 2020).