

Decision 2018/6

Revised mandate of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

The Executive Body,

1. *Recalling* its decision 2007/1 on the establishment of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen and decision 2014/3 partly amending it;
2. *Recognizing* the need to update the mandate of the Task Force to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the amended protocols to the Convention and to take into account the strategic priorities, recommendations and findings set out in the following documents:
 - (a) Revised Long-term Strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.1);
 - (b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention¹; and
 - (c) Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3/Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4).
3. *Acknowledging* key accomplishments of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen that include:
 - (a) Leading the European Nitrogen Assessment, the first continental-scale multi sectoral assessment of the sources and effects of nitrogen and related policy implications, and the first estimation of cost of damages related to nitrogen;
 - (b) Publication of the Guidance document on preventing and abating ammonia emissions from agricultural sources (ECE/EB.AIR/120), which provides the international standard on ammonia mitigation methods and publication and dissemination of the ECE Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions (ECE/EB.AIR/129) that provides the blueprint for Parties to produce their National Ammonia Codes as required under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone;
 - (c) Leading an assessment of the costs of ammonia abatement and the climate co-benefits;
 - (d) Supporting international awareness-raising to underpin progress on ammonia abatement in the context of the wider nitrogen cycle and spearheading the establishment of the International Nitrogen Management System, further strengthening the global relevance of the Convention.
4. *Welcoming* the ongoing leadership of the Task Force by Denmark:
 - (a) *Adopts* the revised mandate of the Task Force as contained in the annex to this decision, which includes the key objective and functions of the Task Force to be carried out on an ongoing basis, noting that additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter timeframe, will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) *Decides* that:

¹ See Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds., *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (Oslo, 2016) and United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 – North America* (2016).

- (i) The lead country or countries have the responsibility for leading and coordinating the ongoing work and tasks of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for communicating with participating experts, for maintaining an up-to-date webpage that includes information on the activities, work, meetings and participants of the Task Force, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these responsibilities;
- (ii) The Task Force is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, and reporting thereon, as well as for keeping other relevant bodies apprised of its work;
- (iii) The Task Force will be comprised of subject matter experts from the Parties to the Convention, acting in their personal capacity;
- (iv) Meetings will be open to representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations, researchers, industry associations, and other relevant organizations. Co-Chairs are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force. Meeting reports will reflect the views of all participants to the extent practicable;
- (v) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it should notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs, and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. In that event, the withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for the operations of the task force are provided to the appropriate country or person(s).

Revised mandate of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen

1. The Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen will continue to develop scientific and technical information related to the complex nature of reactive nitrogen in the context of the nitrogen cycle, and to inform the development of abatement options to reduce emissions of ammonia.
2. The Task Force draws on the expertise of expert panels, which currently include the Expert Panel on Mitigating Agricultural Nitrogen, the Expert Panel on Nitrogen Budgets, the Expert Panel on Nitrogen and Food and the Expert Panel on Nitrogen in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Others may be created as needed.
3. The functions of the Task Force are to:
 - (a) Plan and conduct the technical work necessary to develop a better understanding of the integrated, multi-pollutant nature of reactive nitrogen, particularly in relation to air pollution in the context of the nitrogen cycle for consideration in the work of the Working Group on Strategies and Review;
 - (b) Investigate co-benefits and trade-offs for nitrogen management between air pollution, climate and biodiversity policies as well as interactions between local, national and international policy measures and their effects;
 - (c) Plan and conduct the technical work necessary to evaluate emissions, transport, budgets, fluxes and effects of nitrogen for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review. In particular, provide technical information on nitrogen budgets and the effects of human diets on nitrogen use and emissions and associated synergies between environment, agriculture, health and diet. Provide nitrogen-use indicators that inform various environmental quality, including water quality, indicators;
 - (d) Update and assess, on a regular basis, the information on emission abatement measures and policies for the reduction of the atmospheric emissions of ammonia, and contribute to the development of national nitrogen budgets, as appropriate and improvements of the methodologies for emission inventories and other activities as required;
 - (e) Update, as necessary, the guidance document on preventing and abating ammonia emissions from agricultural sources (ECE/EB.AIR/120) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions (ECE/EB.AIR/129);
 - (f) Disseminate the Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions and related publications and support national focal points in its implementation;
 - (g) Explore the relationships between emission mitigation of ammonia and other nitrogen compounds in the context of nitrogen benefits for food and energy production, considering the opportunities to share experiences on tools for improved nitrogen management and approaches to improve the uptake of the most promising options.
 - (h) Initiate work on the potential for mitigation strategies that simultaneously reduce ammonia and nitrogen oxide emissions from soils considering the increasing share of NO_x from agriculture and the potential relationships with mitigation of nitrous oxides and di-nitrogen;
 - (i) Consider opportunities for optimizing ammonia mitigation strategies in relation to the benefits for reduced particulate matter concentrations, in cooperation with EMEP;

- (j) Initiate work to collect and assess information on emissions abatement technologies and measures for the reduction of methane emissions from the agricultural sector;
 - (k) Carry out the tasks specified for it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body and report thereon to the Working Group on Strategies and Review, while keeping the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe apprised of its activities;
 - (l) Carry out other tasks requested by the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution or by the Working Group on Strategies and Review, subject to availability of adequate financial and human resources;
 - (m) Support the Convention's capacity-building activities in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as resources allow; and
 - (n) Provide assistance to the Implementation Committee as requested.
4. In carrying out its work the Task Force will, as appropriate, collaborate with other bodies under the Convention in carrying out the scientific and technical work above, as well as with bodies outside the Convention, and in particular:
- (a) Cooperate and maximize synergies with other bodies under the Convention, in particular the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, the Task Force on Modelling and Mapping and the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues; and
 - (b) Cooperate with technical bodies outside the Convention as appropriate, including with UN Environment, the International Nitrogen Management System and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Decision 2018/7

Revised mandate of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues

The Executive Body,

1. *Recalling* its decision 2014/2 on the establishment of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues;
2. *Recognizing* the need to update the mandate of the Task Force to be consistent with the provisions of the amended protocols to the Convention and to take into account the recommendations and strategic priorities set out in the following documents:
 - (a) Revised Long-term Strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/142/Add.1);
 - (b) The 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention²; and
 - (c) Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3, ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3/Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4).
3. *Acknowledging* key accomplishments of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues that include:
 - (a) Revisions to the technical annexes (with the exception of annex IX) to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone;
 - (b) Establishment of a continued and effective collaboration with countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
 - (c) Development of tools for techno-economic analyses in specific sectors.
4. *Welcoming* with appreciation the ongoing leadership of France and Italy, with technical support provided by the Interprofessional Technical Centre for Studies on Air Pollution and the French-German Institute for Environmental Research:
 - (a) *Adopts* the revised mandate of the Task Force as contained in the annex to this decision, which includes the key objective and functions of the task force to be carried out on an ongoing basis, noting that additional activities and specific tasks and associated deliverables to be carried out in a shorter timeframe, will be included in the biennial workplans for the implementation of the Convention;
 - (b) *Decides* that:
 - (i) The lead country or countries have the responsibility for leading and coordinating the ongoing work and tasks of the Task Force, for organizing its meetings, for communicating with participating experts, for maintaining an up-to-date webpage that includes information on the activities, work, meetings and participants of the Task Force, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the biennial workplan. Chairs of the Task Force are appointed by the lead country or countries to carry out these responsibilities;

² See Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds., *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (Oslo, 2016) and United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 – North America* (2016).

- (ii) The Task Force is responsible for carrying out the work assigned to it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body, and reporting thereon, as well as for keeping other relevant bodies apprised of its work;
- (iii) The Task Force will be comprised of subject matter experts from the Parties to the Convention, acting in their personal capacity;
- (iv) Meetings will be open to representatives of intergovernmental or accredited non-governmental organizations, researchers, industry associations, and other relevant organizations. Co-Chairs are encouraged to invite individuals with expertise relevant to the work of the Task Force. Meeting reports will reflect the views of all participants to the extent practicable;
- (v) In the event that a lead country needs to discontinue its leadership role, it should notify the secretariat, Co-Chairs, and other lead countries as soon as possible, but preferably no later than one year prior to the time it will need to cease its leadership activities. In that event, the withdrawing lead country will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition to the next leadership model, by ensuring that all data and any other information required for the operations of the task force are provided to the appropriate country or person(s).

Revised mandate of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues

1. The Task Force on Techno-economic Issues will continue to examine, assess, validate and provide information on, emission abatement technologies for stationary and mobile sources.
2. The functions of the Task Force are to:
 - (a) Update and assess on a regular basis the information on emission abatement technologies for the reduction of atmospheric emissions of SO₂, NO_x, VOCs, PM, including black carbon, heavy metals and POPs from stationary and mobile sources including the costs of these technologies;
 - (b) Initiate work to assess information on emissions abatement technologies and measures for the reduction of the methane emissions from key sources;
 - (c) Initiate work to assess information on emission abatement technologies for the reduction of air pollutant shipping emissions;
 - (d) Investigate co-benefits and trade-offs between emission abatement technologies and policies under consideration to address air pollution, climate change and biodiversity;
 - (e) Create, maintain and keep updated, as appropriate and practicable, a regional clearing house of information on control technologies for emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic pollutants, dust (including coarse and fine particulate matter and black carbon), heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants with the aim of having a single place of reference for providing validated information to Party experts including control technology information for emissions of methane; and shipping emissions, and for ammonia in a dedicated section of the clearing house;
 - (f) Develop techno-economic data for estimating the costs of implementation of best available technologies and compliance with requirements of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone in different sectors, and promote such tools, especially in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
 - (g) Disseminate and promote the information on abatement technologies, such as the guidance documents on best available techniques and technical annexes to the protocols to the Convention, to Parties to the Convention, by making use of the clearing house platform and through the organisation of webinars, seminars or workshops;
 - (h) Carry out the tasks specified for it in the biennial workplans approved by the Executive Body and report thereon to the Working Group on Strategies and Review, while keeping the Working Group on Effects and the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe, apprised of its activities;
 - (i) Carry out other tasks requested by the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution or by the Working Group on Strategies and Review, subject to availability of adequate financial and human resources;
 - (j) Support the Convention's capacity-building activities in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as resources allow; and
 - (k) Provide assistance to the Implementation Committee as requested.

3. In carrying out its work, the Task Force will, as appropriate, collaborate with other bodies under the Convention in carrying out the scientific and technical work above, in particular the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling, the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections, the Task Force on Modelling and Mapping and the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen, as well as with bodies outside the Convention as appropriate.

Decision 2018/8

Amendment to decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities

The Executive Body,

1. *Recalling* its decision 2002/1 on the Financing of Core Activities, paragraph 1 (c) and Appendix I;
2. *Noting* that since its foundation in 1990, the Coordination Centre for Effects had been the central body under the Convention responsible for the development of modelling and geographic mapping methodologies for the assessment of air pollution-related effects in Europe;
3. *Expressing* its gratitude to the Netherlands for hosting the Coordination Centre for Effects for the past 27 years;
4. *Welcoming* the offer of Germany to host the centre as of 2018;
5. *Decides* to amend its decision 2002/1, appendix I, as follows:
 - (a) After “Coordination Center for Effects for the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping”;
 - (b) The words “at the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment, Bilthoven, Netherlands” are replaced by “at the German Federal Environment Agency, Dessau, Germany.