

Decision 2012/17
Concerning compliance by Estonia, Germany, Italy and
Latvia with the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants
(refs. 2/10, 5/10, 10/10, 3/10 and 11/10)

The Executive Body,

Acting under paragraph 11 of the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/89/Add.1, decision 2006/2),

1. *Recalls* its decisions 2010/10 and 2011/6;
2. *Notes* the report provided by the Implementation Committee on the follow-up to decision 2011/6 concerning the compliance of Estonia, Germany, Italy and Latvia with the requirements of article 3, paragraph 5 (a), of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs) (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/16, paras. 31–48), following the referrals by the secretariat pursuant to paragraph 5 of the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee, and in particular the Committee's finding that on the basis of the officially reported emission data, Estonia and Italy still appear to be in non-compliance with their obligations under article 3, paragraph 5 (a), of the Protocol on POPs;
3. *Notes* the Committee's conclusion that Germany's emissions of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) no longer appear to exceed emissions from the reference year and its conclusion that Germany therefore appears to be in compliance with its obligations under article 3, paragraph 5 (a), of the Protocol on POPs;
4. *Notes* that Italy now appears to be in compliance with regard to hexachlorobenzene (HCB) emissions, but that the most recent emission data on PAH show emissions that are still above the base year emissions level;
5. *Notes with regret* that Latvia had again failed to provide any of the information as requested in decision 2010/10 and to provide the requested information within the timescale specified in decision 2011/6;
6. *Further notes with regret* that Latvia is in non-compliance with its obligations under article 3, paragraph 5 (a), of the Protocol on POPs, and requests the Executive Secretary to bring this matter to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia;
7. *Reiterates its concern* at the uncertainty regarding emissions factors appropriate for reporting of emissions of POPs, especially, but not exclusively, in the sector of residential combustion;
8. *Requests* the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP), in accordance with paragraph 3 (c) of decision 2006/2, to support the Implementation Committee as necessary in its further consideration of these cases, including by reviewing the emissions data provided by Estonia, Italy and Latvia in order to ensure the quality and accuracy of that data;

9. *Also requests* the Task Force on Emissions Inventories and Projections to report its findings on the reviews carried out in accordance to paragraph 8 above to the Committee by 1 August 2013;

10. *Welcomes and encourages* the plans of Estonia and Italy to continue to review and improve their emission inventories for POPs, and urges Latvia to respond fully to the requests of the Committee for additional information and to speed up the review and revision of its emission inventories for POPs;

11. *Urges* Estonia, Italy and Latvia to consider the implementation of additional measures to reduce emissions despite the uncertainty of emission data;

12. *Requests* Estonia, Italy and Latvia to provide to the Implementation Committee, through the secretariat, by 1 August 2013, information concerning the status and details of their work to improve their emission inventories for the POPs in question and any recalculated emissions data;

13. *Requests* the Implementation Committee to continue to review these cases in the light of the information provided in accordance with this decision and in the light of the information obtained in response to decision 2011/13, and to report to it thereon at its thirty-second session in 2013.
