

## Decision 2019/4

### The review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012

*The Executive Body,*

*Welcoming* the entry into force of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012, on 7 October 2019,

*Recalling* article 10 of the amended Protocol, which indicates that Parties shall keep under review the obligations set out in the present Protocol, including the adequacy of the obligations and the progress made toward the achievement of the objective of the present Protocol,

*Recalling also* that article 10 also calls for an evaluation of mitigation measures for black carbon emissions and ammonia control measures, no later than at the second session of the Executive Body after the entry into force of the amended Protocol,

*Noting* the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-seventh session (Geneva, 21–24 May 2019) and the list of potential elements that could inform the scope and content of the review (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/122 and annex I), as well as the submissions provided by Parties and subsidiary bodies regarding elements of, and inputs to, the review of the Gothenburg Protocol,

*Recalling* the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention,<sup>1</sup> the recommendations of the ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2017/3 and Corr.1 and ECE/EB.AIR/2017/4) and the long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020–2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex),

1. *Decides* to initiate the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012;
2. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to develop a plan for the review that includes its scope and content by continuing to elaborate elements for, and inputs to, the review on the basis of annex I to the report of the Working Group at its fifty-seventh session, taking into account the above-mentioned reports;
3. *Invites* Parties, subsidiary bodies, observers and other interested groups and organizations to submit views on additional elements to be considered in the upcoming review by 15 March 2020, to be compiled by the secretariat, and *requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review to give due consideration to any views received in undertaking the task referred to in paragraph 2 above;
4. *Requests* the Working Group on Strategies and Review, working in collaboration with appropriate bodies of the Convention, to produce a detailed work schedule for the review, including the procedure for undertaking it, that includes a prioritization, as needed, of the elements to be considered in the review as forwarded to the Executive Body by the Working Group and contained in the annex to the present decision;
5. *Also requests* the subsidiary bodies of the Convention to prioritize work that supports the review;
6. *Further requests* that the plan and work schedule be forwarded to the Executive Body for consideration at its fortieth session (Geneva, 14–18 December 2020), with a view to concluding the review at its forty-second session, unless otherwise decided by the Executive Body.

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

## Annex

### **List of potential elements that could inform the scope and content of the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone**

#### **A. Legally required elements**

Article 10, including:

- (a) Obligations in relation to calculated and internationally optimized allocations of emission reductions;
- (b) The adequacy of the obligations and the progress made towards achievement of the objective of the present Protocol;
- (c) Evaluation of the mitigation measures for black carbon emissions;
- (d) Evaluation of ammonia control measures and consideration of the need to revise annex IX to the Protocol.

#### **B. Elements in the existing Protocol**

- (a) Sufficiency and effectiveness of obligations with respect to acidification, eutrophication and ozone precursors, including further emission requirements to meet the objectives of the Protocol;
- (b) Current flexibilities, including deadlines and timescales;
- (c) Black carbon reporting;
- (d) Sufficiency and effectiveness of obligations with respect to particulate matter, including further emission requirements to meet the objectives of the Protocol and strengthened measures, in particular for residential solid fuel combustion.

#### **C. Elements meant to address gaps**

- (a) Appropriate steps towards reducing emissions of black carbon, ozone precursors not yet addressed, such as methane, and emissions from shipping (with due consideration for International Maritime Organization policies and measures);
- (b) Further flexibilities [, for example, revised deadlines,] and new approaches [, for example, possibly considering step-wise ratification,] in order to [overcome barriers and] facilitate ratification and implementation by [Parties that have not yet ratified the Protocol, including] countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (c) An integrated approach to addressing air pollution through a multi-pollutant, multi-effect approach, which includes potential interaction with climate change, the nitrogen cycle and biodiversity and can achieve multiple goals and benefits and avoid potential unintended consequences of proposed actions for other environmental problems.

#### **D. Scientific and technical inputs**

- (a) Quality and consistency of inventories, and in particular black carbon emissions inventories, and condensables in particulate matter, including emissions factors;
- (b) Definition of black carbon;
- (c) Additional types of non-forested terrestrial ecosystems for monitoring and modelling the effects of air pollution;

- (d) Update of critical loads for the analysis of the effectiveness of policies;
- (e) Effects of air pollution on biodiversity as a basis for critical levels/loads calculations;
- (f) Metrics for assessing ozone damages to crops and ecosystems and interactions with other pollutants and climate change;
- (g) Accounting for linkages with climate change and land use in effects indicators;
- (h) Analysis of costs and benefits, including costs of inaction;
- (i) Further input from the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution on ozone and ozone precursors and particulate matter, including in response to questions proposed by the Working Group on Strategies and Review and recommended control strategies for further modelling by the Task Force;
- (j) Definition of human health impact metrics;
- (k) Trend analysis in emissions/concentrations/depositions/impacts at the multi-scale dimension, and consideration of impact of international policies on trends;
- (l) Ways to address barriers to implementation, including for existing sources.