DECISION 2002/5 CONCERNING COMPLIANCE BY SWEDEN WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE 1991 VOC PROTOCOL

The Executive Body,

Acting under paragraph 11 of the structure and functions of the Implementation Committee (Executive Body decision 1997/2, annex, as amended in 2001, ECE/EB.AIR/75, annex V),

1. Welcomes the submission by Sweden to the Implementation Committee concerning its compliance with the requirements of paragraph 2 (a) of article 2 of the 1991 Geneva Protocol on the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds or their Transboundary Fluxes;

2. Notes the report provided by the Implementation Committee on this matter (EB.AIR/2002/2, paras. 17-20) and in particular its conclusion regarding Sweden’s non-compliance with the emission reduction obligation of the VOC Protocol;

3. Expresses concern at the failure by Sweden to fulfil its obligation to take effective measures to reduce its national annual emissions by at least 30% using 1988 as its base year, as required by paragraph 2 (a) of article 2 of the VOC Protocol;

4. Notes that Sweden has not yet indicated when the measures that it has adopted to implement the provisions of paragraph 2 (a) of article 2 would bring it into compliance;

5. Urges Sweden to fulfil its obligation under the VOC Protocol as soon as possible;

6. Calls on Sweden to provide to the Implementation Committee through the secretariat by 31 March 2003 a report describing the progress made towards compliance and setting out a timetable that specifies the year by which Sweden expects to be in compliance, lists the specific measures taken or scheduled (giving particular attention to the mobile source and wood combustion sectors) to fulfil its emission reduction obligations under the VOC Protocol and sets out the projected effects of each of these measures on its VOC emissions up to and including the year of compliance;

7. Requests the Implementation Committee to review Sweden’s progress and timetable, and report to it thereon at its twenty-first session.