

Annex III

DECISION 2004/3 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF AN EXPERT GROUP ON PARTICULATE MATTER

The Executive Body,

Recognizing that the effects of particulate matter are not directly covered by any of the protocols to the Convention,

Noting that results from a recent review of the health effects of air pollution by the World Health Organization (WHO) confirms that particulate matter still poses a considerable threat to human health and that preliminary results from integrated assessment modelling indicate that present policies will not be sufficient to eliminate the risks,

Noting also that the European Community including its member States in the “Clean Air for Europe” programme are paying special attention to particulate matter, that its work could make an important contribution to the ongoing work under the Convention and that it is important to ensure the most efficient use of resources of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling the views of the Parties on dust, soot and particulate matter,

Considering that several technical and scientific bodies under the Convention are carrying out work on particulate matter under the Executive Body’s current work-plan,

Convinced that improved coordination of activities would help address the problems of particulate matter in a more timely manner,

Underlining that in the context of this decision particulate matter refers exclusively to anthropogenic particulate matter,

1. Establishes the Expert Group on Particulate Matter, under the leadership of Germany and the United Kingdom, to:

(a) Assess the degree of control of pollutants that contribute to the formation of particulate matter already provided by existing protocols to the Convention and other instruments;

(b) Review current work on particulate matter under the Convention, taking also into account the latest results of the forthcoming Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution of the European Community and similar strategies of other Parties;

(c) Consider the scientific and technical requirements, as well as non-technical measures, needed for possible options for assisting Parties in developing further measures to reduce particulate matter;

(d) Give technical support also to other abatement strategies of Parties to the Convention, including the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution of the European Community;

(e) Carry out such other tasks as the Executive Body may assign to it in the annual work-plan;

2. Decides that the lead countries will assume the principal responsibility for coordinating the work of this Expert Group, for organizing its meetings, for designating its chair(s), for communications with participating experts, and for other organizational arrangements in accordance with the work-plan;

3. Also decides that the Expert Group will carry out the tasks specified for it in the work-plan adopted annually by the Executive Body and will report thereon to the Working Group on Strategies and Review;

4. Requests other subsidiary bodies and programme centres under the Convention that are working on particulate matter to participate actively in the work of the Expert Group;

5. Urges Parties to the Convention to nominate experts for the Expert Group and to inform the secretariat of their names as soon as possible.