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Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

Thirty-fifth session
Geneva, 2–4 May 2016

Report of the Executive Body on its thirty-fifth session

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I. Introduction

1. The thirty-fifth session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) was held from 2 to 4 May 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.

A. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following Parties to the Convention: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. Delegates from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan also attended the meeting.

3. Representatives of the following international organizations attended the meeting: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the World Health Organization (WHO); and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Also present at the meeting were representatives the European Environmental Bureau, the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations, the University of São Paulo and “Yes Evreux”.

B. Organizational matters

4. The Executive Body adopted the agenda for its thirty-fifth session (ECE/EB.AIR/134), with the changes proposed by the Chair.

5. The Executive Body adopted the report of its thirty-fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/133 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1) with the changes proposed by the European Union (para. 19 (c) and sect. VII) and the United States of America (sect. VII).

6. The Executive Body requested the secretariat to finalize the report of the current session, in cooperation with the Chair, and to circulate it to Parties for comments prior to its issuance.

II. Report on credentials

7. Delegations submitted their credentials during the session. The officers of the session reported that 33 Parties to the Convention were present with credentials. Seven other Parties were present without credentials. The Executive Body took note of the report on credentials.

III. Matters arising from meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other related meetings

8. The secretariat informed the Executive Body about the status of the preparations for the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference (Batumi, Georgia, 8–10 June 2016), based on the outcomes of the special session of the United Nations Economic

Commission for Europe (ECE) Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 23–25 February 2016). The Executive Body took note of the report by the secretariat, including with regard to the organization of the thematic segment on improving air quality for a better environment and human health and the availability of the related documents for the segment.

9. Furthermore, the Executive Body took note of the call by the Chair to Parties and other stakeholders to submit voluntary commitments to the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air in accordance with the applicable template (ECE/BATUMI/CONF/2016/7, annex).

IV. Review of implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan

10. The Executive Body was briefed by the chairs of the subsidiary bodies and the secretariat on the implementation of the 2016–2017 workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/133/Add.1). It adopted the list of meetings and official documentation for the Convention between its thirty-fifth and thirty-seventh (inclusive) sessions (annex I), and requested the secretariat to prepare and submit those documents for translation into the official ECE languages.

A. Science

11. The Chair of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) reported on the implementation of workplan item 1, dedicated to science. In response to the Executive Body's request at its thirty-fourth session for the work items to be prioritized, in view of insufficient financial resources (ECE/EB.AIR/133 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 35), she presented a list of key science-related areas of the workplan, provided by the Extended Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects. The priority areas of activities included: improvement of emission inventories; support to Parties on national monitoring and research; access to data and development of tools; extension of technical support for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; work on particulate matter and ozone, especially in view of their health aspects; and outreach efforts towards the Arctic Council, UNEP, WHO, WMO and other organizations and international projects.

12. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body also informed the Executive Body about the outcome of the joint meeting of the Extended Bureaux (Geneva, 14–17 March 2016), in particular the approval of the *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (2016 Assessment Report).^a The report was based on two trends reports elaborated by the centres and task forces under the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects, respectively. The Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling then presented a shorter summary for policymakers of the 2016 Assessment Report (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/3), and representatives of the United States and Canada presented a separate report covering their territories: *Scientific Assessment Report 2016: North America* (informal document No. 4).^b

13. The Executive Body welcomed the reports presented.

^a Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds. (Oslo, 2016). Available from

<http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrapwelcome/publications.html>.

^b Subsequently published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada as *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016 — North America* (2016, online report).

14. The Chair presented the nominations for the ad hoc group of experts submitted by Parties from Belgium (Michèle Loutsch), Canada (Jennifer Kerr), Germany (Till Spranger), the Russian Federation (Alexander Romanov), Switzerland (Richard Ballaman) and the United States (Kimber Scavo) to carry out item 2.1.3 of the 2016–2017 workplan on the formulation of a policy response to the assessment report. The Executive Body approved the composition of the group and adopted decision 2016/1 on the establishment of an ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 Scientific Assessment of the Convention (see annex II).

B. Policy

15. The Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review reported on the implementation of workplan item 2, dedicated to policy, and the desired future direction of the work. He stressed the importance of continuing the information exchange on experiences and good practices among Parties in an interactive format, with a view to supporting the ratification of the three latest protocols by Parties, as well as addressing potential barriers and priority needs. There was also a need to follow-up on the recommendations from the workshop to promote the understanding and implementation of best available techniques (Workshop on BATs) organized by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (Berlin, 20–22 April 2016).

16. The Executive Body took note of the report by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, specifically in relation to the outcomes of the Workshop on BATs. It discussed the need for functioning emission inventories as a precondition for the ratification of the protocols, and highlighted the importance of supporting countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, including through twinning projects, in that regard.

17. The Executive Body adopted decision 2016/2 on the adoption of guidance document on emission control techniques for mobile sources (see annex II) and requested the secretariat to produce and publish the guidance contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2016/4, as revised during the session, in the three official ECE languages.

18. Furthermore, the Executive Body invited all Parties to send their comments on the draft guidelines for estimation and measurement of emissions of volatile organic compounds (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2015/4) to the co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues by 31 May 2016. It requested the Task Force to submit the final draft for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 13–14 December 2016). A final draft would be submitted to the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016) for adoption.

19. In response to a proposal by the Chair, the Executive Body invited all Parties to provide to the secretariat by 30 November 2016 short informal reports on their progress in the ratification of the three latest, amended protocols to the Convention. It also invited all Parties to provide short oral presentations in that regard at its thirty-sixth session.

20. The Executive Body welcomed the finalization of the note by the ad hoc group of legal experts on ratification of amended protocols that had not yet entered into force (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/5), and invited all Parties and other States to refer to that document in their consideration of possible accession to the amended protocols.

21. It further took note of the report by the ad hoc group of legal experts on the progress in the preparation of a response to the request submitted by Luxembourg to the secretariat regarding the provision of legal advice with respect to some obligations under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012.

C. Compliance

22. The Chair of the Implementation Committee reported to the Executive Body with reference to workplan item 3, dedicated to compliance, presenting the outcomes of the thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 26–28 January 2016) of the Implementation Committee as contained the eighteenth report of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/1). Out of 15 cases concerning compliance with emission reduction obligations, the Committee had been able to close 4 cases concerning the Gothenburg Protocol. Belgium, France, Luxembourg and Spain had reached compliance with that Protocol owing to the revision of their respective inventories in accordance with the approved outcome of the inventory adjustment procedure. Out of 16 cases involving Parties under review for non-compliance with reporting obligations, 2 cases — concerning Belarus and Hungary — had been closed following the submission of the missing data.

23. The Executive Body took note of the report of the Implementation Committee presented by the Committee Chair. It then:

(a) Re-elected Austria (Manfred Ritter) and France (Emmanuel Fiani) for a third term on the Implementation Committee;

(b) Elected Belgium (Wendy Altobello), Croatia (Nataša Kacic-Bartulovic), Serbia (Nebojsa Redzic), Sweden (Petra Hagstrom) and the United States (Jennifer Landside) for a first term on the Implementation Committee;

(c) Elected Mr. Ritter (Austria) as Chair of the Implementation Committee;

(d) Postponed the election of one remaining member to the Implementation Committee to its thirty-sixth session.

D. Capacity-building to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

24. The Chair of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Coordinating Group) highlighted the usefulness of the Workshop on BATs, organized with the financial support of the European Union, Germany and Sweden, which had had a particular focus on countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. He highlighted the usefulness of the regional clearinghouse of control technology information being developed by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, which would be an important tool to exchange information and to support the ratification of the latest protocols, as well as the activities managed by the secretariat, responding to the practical needs of the countries. There was also a need for a workshop to support the implementation of the guidelines for estimation and measurement of emissions of volatile organic compounds, and the Coordinating Group planned to organize a meeting of the Group in conjunction with such a workshop. Finally, the Coordinating Group Chair underscored the political importance of including air quality related issues on the agenda of the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference.

25. Representatives of Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Ukraine expressed their gratitude to the organizers of the Workshop on BATs. The representative of Serbia asked to consider further including participants from South-Eastern Europe in such regional workshops and trainings, in particular those aimed at supporting the improvement of national emission inventories and projections.

26. The representative of Ukraine informed the Parties about the introduction of provisions on best available techniques adapted from European legislation, which were

being introduced in national legislation for certain types of industry; however, there were particular types of enterprises in Ukraine that did not exist in the European Union, which presented an obstacle to the country's ratification of the Gothenburg Protocol. Bilateral exchange of experiences and good practices with countries having similar activity sectors could be a solution.

27. The representative of Kyrgyzstan informed Parties about the recent national activities organized by the Convention secretariat to promote the country's ratification of the key protocols and support reporting under the Convention, notably the analysis of Kyrgyz legislation with regard to the requirements of the protocols and the workshop on emission inventories (Bishkek, 13–15 April 2016), the latter funded by the Russian Federation. The recommendations emanating from the legislative analysis, which had been presented at a round table held back to back with the workshop on 12 April 2016, had become a road map for Kyrgyzstan for the subsequent development of a national action plan for ratification until 2020.

28. The secretariat reported on its activities in the period 2015–2016, in particular: in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine to improve reporting; the analysis of national policies and legal frameworks of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan with respect to air quality assessment; and the elaboration of recommendations on the steps towards ratification of the latest protocols. Besides capacity-building and awareness-raising efforts, the secretariat had provided travel support to delegates from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in accordance with Executive Body decision 2006/13. With regard to the latter, there was a lack of sufficient funds to fully cover the travel expenses of eligible participants throughout 2017 and beyond, and the secretariat encouraged Parties to provide their contributions to the respective trust fund.

29. The Executive Body took note of the report by the Chair of the Coordinating Group and the secretariat on the implementation of workplan item 4 on capacity-building to promote ratification and implementation in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

E. Communication and outreach

30. The Executive Body took note of the report presented by the secretariat on outreach activities (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/2), prepared in accordance with item 5.4.2 of the 2014–2015 workplan (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.2). The representative of Canada remarked with reference to paragraph 80 of that report that the Task Force on Black Carbon and Methane under the Arctic Council had been discontinued and an Expert Group on Black Carbon and Ozone had been established in 2015. The Chair noted that communication activities by the secretariat had improved substantially.

31. Representatives of several Parties were particularly supportive of the cooperation with WHO and UNEP. They noted that information on cooperation with other organizations would also help Parties to work with colleagues at the national level. The representative of the United States suggested inviting WMO to the inter-agency meetings held between ECE, WHO and UNEP. She also indicated particular support for work with WHO that focused on information sharing and capacity-building rather than communication.

32. The Executive Body encouraged the secretariat and relevant subsidiary bodies to further pursue cooperation with relevant international organizations. Parties agreed that cooperation should be sought in particular in areas where efficiency could be increased, costs cut and duplications (e.g., with the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention)) avoided.

In that regard, the long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/18, annex) should provide guidance to decision-making on cooperation with other organizations. The representative of Canada was particularly supportive of cooperation with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants (Climate and Clean Air Coalition) and the Arctic Council with regard to exploring the linkages between climate change and air pollution.

33. Furthermore, Parties noted that communication and outreach activities should also be reconsidered as part of the revision of the long-term strategy and future workplans. The Chair of the EMEP Steering Body invited Parties to make concrete suggestions in order for EMEP to set priorities for further cooperation.

V. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

34. The secretariat presented an update to the note on the financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2015/3), focusing on the financing of the effects-related activities. The majority of the costs of running the six International Cooperative Programme centres had been covered directly by the host Parties. Additional co-funding had been provided through the ECE trust fund to which Parties provided their recommended contributions. The secretariat drew attention to a downward trend in voluntary contributions over the past eight years (2008–2015).

35. Furthermore, the secretariat informed the Executive Body of delays in payments to the scientific centres, as well as in financial reporting over the past few months, caused by challenges faced during the deployment of the “UMOJA” enterprise resource planning system at the United Nations Office at Geneva, including ECE. The new system was projected to attain full functionality as of June 2016.

36. The Chair of the Working Group on Effects provided information about the outcome of an informal meeting of the representatives of Parties on financial issues (Brussels, 26 April 2016), held at the initiative of the Chair of the Executive Body. At the meeting, Parties hosting scientific centres had confirmed their commitments to provide the essential national funding to the centres for the next few years. However, the direct national funding was subject to periodic review in view of decreasing financial capabilities and changing national priorities with respect to transboundary air pollution. The financial situation of the Coordination Centre for Effects, in particular, had been discussed. That Centre faced significant budget cuts in 2016 and there were indications that no funding would be available for 2017 and beyond. Participants at the informal meeting had expressed their gratitude to the Netherlands for hosting and supporting the Coordination Centre for Effects since 1990, stressing the Centre’s crucial role in the Convention’s scientific and policy-related activities. However, there was a need for further clarifications about the functioning of the Centre in 2016 and beyond and it had been suggested that the Netherlands should inform the secretariat about the situation in that regard.

37. The Executive Body expressed its concern with regard to the low level of payment of contributions to the trust fund for the effects-oriented activities, and in particular the financial situation of the Coordination Centre for Effects. It urged Parties to provide their contributions in accordance with the recommended scale of contributions as adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/133 and Corr.1 and 2, para. 37 (c) and (d), and ECE/EB.AIR/2015/3, table 11).

38. The Executive Body welcomed the important work delivered by the Coordination Centre for Effects, generously supported by the Netherlands in the past. It noted that that work constituted an essential part of the core activities of the Convention and should be

funded on a stable basis. In that regard, the Executive Body took note of the information provided by the Netherlands regarding the preparation of an official letter to the secretariat clarifying the situation concerning the hosting of the Centre in 2016 and beyond. Furthermore, the Executive Body requested all International Cooperative Programme centres to provide more detailed information on the costs and sources of funding of individual workplan activities.

VI. Activities of international organizations relevant to the Convention

39. Representatives of international organizations informed the Executive Body of their activities of particular relevance to the Convention.

40. A representative of UNEP provided information on activities on air quality in follow-up to resolution 1/7 on strengthening the role of UNEP in promoting air quality, adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session (Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014). At the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, 23–27 May 2016), air quality would also be a key item in the discussions under the theme “Healthy Environment, Healthy People”. In addition, UNEP would launch a global air quality policy report during an event moderated by the ECE Executive Secretary. UNEP would also be engaged in the Eighth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference, including by contributing to the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative.

41. The representative of UNEP also provided information on behalf of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and reminded Parties that, since 2015, ECE was an official non-State partner of the Coalition. That had already facilitated closer cooperation and led to the Convention being explicitly mentioned in the Coalition’s five-year Strategic Plan, adopted at the High-Level Assembly (Paris, 8 December 2015) held in the margins of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris, 30 November–12 December 2015). The most recent meeting of the Coalition, held in Washington, D.C., had been organized jointly with the Global Methane Initiative. Of particular interest for further cooperation between the Convention and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition could be the regional assessment of short-lived climate pollutants.

42. A representative of WHO presented the follow-up to World Health Assembly resolution 68/18 “Health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution”, including the preparation of a road map for an enhanced global response to address the adverse effects of air pollution for submission to and discussion at the upcoming sixty-ninth session of the World Health Assembly (Geneva, 23–28 May 2016). He also provided information with regard to the work on indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals, new air quality data in cities, communication activities in cooperation with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Global Platform on Air Quality and Health and an expert group to discuss air quality aspects in the run-up to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (Quito, 17–20 October 2016).

43. A representative of WMO provided information on activities relevant to the Convention, specifically highlighting cooperation between EMEP and relevant WMO bodies. She updated the Executive Body on the outcome of the seventeenth session of the World Meteorological Congress (Geneva, 25 May–12 June 2015), and future priorities of WMO. A new Implementation Plan for the period 2016–2023 for the Global Atmosphere Watch Programme had been adopted, which built upon the premise that atmospheric composition mattered to climate, weather forecasting, human health, terrestrial and aquatic

ecosystems, agricultural productivity, aeronautical operations, renewable energy production, etc. WMO appreciated the contribution of EMEP to the Global Atmosphere Watch observational network and welcomed newly established European stations. The representative further highlighted developments in the Global Atmosphere Watch data management system and presented several applications supported by the Programme. Meeting participants were invited to attend the Global Atmosphere Watch Symposium 2017 (Geneva, 10–13 April 2017).

44. A representative of the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury informed the Executive Body about the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury (Dead Sea, Jordan, 10–15 March 2016), which had adopted a number of guidance documents on a provisional basis. The Committee also had extensive discussions on reporting, which had been highlighted as an area where further cooperation between the two Conventions could be sought, possibly resulting in more robust data and efficiencies in data collection.

45. A representative of the Stockholm Convention provided information on trends in concentrations of persistent organic pollutants in ambient air and human milk, highlighting that the Second Global Persistent Organic Pollutants Monitoring Report would be presented at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017).

46. The Executive Body took note of the information provided by the different organizations regarding activities relevant to the Convention and possible areas for cooperation.

Annex I

List of meetings and official documents between the thirty-fifth and thirty-seventh sessions of the Executive Body (2016–2017)

A. List of meetings between the thirty-fifth and thirty-seventh (inclusive) sessions of the Executive Body

2016

September

- Thirty-seventh session of the Implementation Committee (Geneva, 5–7 September)^c
- Second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 13–16 September)

December

- Executive Body Bureau (Geneva, 12 December)
- Fifty-fourth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 13–14 December)
- Thirty-sixth session of the Executive Body (Geneva, 15–16 December)

2017

Late May-June

- Implementation Committee (thirty-eighth session) (location and exact date to be determined)
- Fifty-fifth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 31 May –2 June)

September

- Implementation Committee (thirty-ninth session) (Geneva, exact date to be determined)
- Third joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 11–15 September) (starting in the afternoon on 11 September and ending after the morning session on 15 September)

December

- Thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body (Geneva, 11–14 December) (starting in the afternoon on 11 December)

¹ Following the session, due to the unavailability of the Committee Chair during these dates, the Implementation Committee decided to change its meeting dates to 13–15 September 2016.

- Executive Body Bureau (back to back with the Executive Body session). Additional Bureau meetings may be scheduled throughout the year, if necessary.

B. List of official documents for the sessions of the Executive Body and the main subsidiary bodies

2016

Second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

- Agenda
- Report of the second joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects
- Joint report by the EMEP Steering Body and Working Group on Effects
- Measurements and Modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling)
- Integrated assessment modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling)
- Emission inventories (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections)
- Present state of emission data (report by the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections)
- Hemispheric transport of air pollution (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution)
- Activities of the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects
- Review of adjustment applications
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Acidification of Rivers and Lakes
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems
- Technical report of International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends
- Technical report of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution
- Financial and budgetary matters

Working Group on Strategies and Review (fifty-fourth session)

- Agenda

- Report by the Working Group on Strategies and Review
- Report by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues
- Report by the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen
- Draft guidelines for estimation and measurement of emissions of volatile organic compounds
- Report on technical workshops

Executive Body (thirty-sixth session)

- Agenda
- Report of the thirty-sixth session of the Executive Body
- Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention
- Report by the Implementation Committee
- Overview of status of reporting by Parties in line with Executive Body decision 2013/2
- Draft guidelines for estimation and measurement of emissions of volatile organic compounds

2017

Third joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects

- Agenda
- Report of the third joint session of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects
- Joint report by the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects
- Measurements and Modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling)
- Integrated assessment modelling (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling)
- Emission inventories (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections)
- Present state of emission data (report by the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections)
- Hemispheric transport of air pollution (report of the Chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution)
- Activities of the Bureaux of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects
- Review of adjustment applications
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Acidification of Rivers and Lakes

- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Materials, including Historic and Cultural Monuments
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Effects of Air Pollution on Natural Vegetation and Crops
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems
- Technical report of the International Cooperative Programme on Modelling and Mapping of Critical Levels and Loads and Air Pollution Effects, Risks and Trends
- Technical report of the Joint Task Force on the Health Aspects of Air Pollution
- Financial and budgetary matters

Working Group on Strategies and Review (fifty-fifth session)

- Agenda
- Report by the Working Group on Strategies and Review
- Report by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues
- Report by the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen
- Draft guidance document on nitrogen mitigation in agriculture
- Report on possible synergies for linking dietary behaviour and nitrogen mitigation practices through the food system
- Report on policy response to the assessment report

Executive Body (thirty-seventh session)

- Agenda
- Report of the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body
- Draft 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention
- Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention
- Report by the Implementation Committee
- Summary document on benefits of establishing national nitrogen budgets
- Report on policy response to the assessment report

Annex II

Decisions adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-fifth session

Decision 2016/1

Establishment of an ad hoc policy review group of experts on the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention

The Executive Body,

Welcoming the publication *Towards Cleaner Air: Scientific Assessment Report 2016* (2016 Assessment Report),^d as well as the shorter summary for policymakers of the 2016 Assessment Report (ECE/EB.AIR/2016/3) adopted by the Extended Bureau of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects in March 2016,

Recalling item 2.1.3 of the 2016–2017 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (see ECE/EB.AIR./133/Add.1), which tasks the Working Group on Strategies and Review to formulate a policy response to the 2016 Assessment Report, taking into account the long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/18, annex), the action plan for the implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/109/Add.1, decision 2011/14, annex), the report of the ad hoc expert group on the review of the International Cooperative Programmes of the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/2013/2) and the report of the ad hoc group of experts on the action plan for the implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2012/15),

Recognizing the importance of the long-term strategy for the Convention and the need to review priorities for work,

Taking into consideration the nominations for participants in the ad hoc group of experts forwarded by Parties to the secretariat by 15 February 2016, as reflected in the report of the Executive Body on its thirty-fifth session:

1. *Establishes* a time-limited ad hoc group of experts to develop a policy response to the 2016 Assessment Report;
2. *Requests* the ad hoc group of experts to report its progress and preliminary findings to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 13–14 December 2016) and to the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15–16 December 2016) for their feedback;
3. *Also requests* the ad hoc group of experts to present its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-fifth session (Spring 2017), which will then submit its recommendations to the thirty-seventh session of the Executive Body (December 2017);
4. *Decides* that the ad hoc group of experts will:

^d Rob Maas and Peringe Grennfelt, eds. (Oslo, 2016). Available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrtapwelcome/publications.html>.

- (a) Make proposals for a policy response to the 2016 Assessment Report and recommendations as to whether and how the Convention should take action in the short and long term based on the findings in that report;
- (b) Review the priorities for work and action in the long-term strategy in the light of the 2016 Assessment Report;
- (c) Propose updates and revisions to the long-term strategy for the Convention based on findings in the 2016 Assessment Report, the policy recommendations developed further to subparagraph (a) above, and taking into account the report of the ad hoc group of experts on the action plan for the implementation of the long-term strategy for the Convention.

Decision 2016/2
Adoption of guidance document on emission control techniques for mobile sources

The Parties to the 1999 Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) meeting within the thirty-fifth session of the Executive Body in May 2016,

Decide:

- (a) To adopt the guidance document contained in document ECE/EB.AIR/2016/4, as amended during the session, to be entitled *Guidance Document on Emission Control Techniques for Mobile Sources*;
 - (b) That the present guidance document replaces the guidance document for selected mobile sources referred to in paragraph (d) of decision 1999/1;
 - (c) That the guidance document shall be the guidance referred to in article 3, paragraph 6, of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended by decision 2012/2.
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