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Working Group on Strategies and Review

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Progress in the implementation of the 2016-2017 workplan

Report of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues

Summary

At its thirty-third session (Geneva, 8-11 December 2014), the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution adopted decision 2014/2 (see ECE/EB.AIR/127/Add.1), upgrading the Expert Group on Techno-economic Issues to the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues. In accordance with the mandate set out in the annex to decision 2014/2, the Task Force is required to report on progress in its work to the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

The report reviews the main outputs of the Task Force on Techno-economic issues during 2016, and sets out proposed activities to be implemented by the Task Force in 2018-2019.

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I. Introduction

1. The present document contains information on the activities envisaged for implementation by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in 2018-2019.
2. At the fifty-fourth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 13-14 December 2016), Tiziano Pignatelli (Italy) and Jean-Guy Bartaire (France), Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues, reported on the progress made in the implementation of the 2016-2017 workplan, notably its items 2.2.1-2.2.9 (see ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2016/1).
3. The main outputs of the Task Force during 2016 included:
 - (a) A workshop to promote the understanding and implementation of best available techniques across the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region with a focus on countries in transition (Berlin, 20-22 April 2016), organized under the aegis of the Task Force;
 - (b) Progress in developing the Clearing House of Control Technologies;
 - (c) An evaluation of the methodology for estimating costs of abatement measures in large combustion plants;
 - (d) Development of a methodology for the analysis of the Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollution Interactions and Synergies (GAINS) scenarios;
 - (e) The review of the draft Guidelines for Estimation and Measurement of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2016/4);
 - (f) Progress in estimating the cost of abatement technologies for volatile organic compounds.
4. The Task Force Co-Chairs will provide an oral update on the progress made in the implementation of the 2016-2017 workplan at the fifty-fifth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The Task Force has not provided an interim written report on progress made in 2017 for the Working Group's consideration as the next meeting of the Task Force will not take place until October 2017.

II. Activities of the Task Force planned for implementation in 2018-2019

5. This section outlines the activities of the Task Force planned for implementation in 2018-2019 in accordance with its mandate. These will form the respective part of the 2018-2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention.

Item 2.2.1

Workshop to promote awareness and understanding of control techniques, in particular in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

6. A second workshop, similar to the one organized in Berlin in April 2016 to promote understanding and implementation of best available techniques with a focus on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, will seek to increase capacity to apply best available techniques and thus facilitate the implementation of the amended protocols to the Convention in the target countries. The workshop will notably promote the implementation of following guidance documents:

(a) Guidance Document on Control Techniques for Emissions of Sulphur, Nitrogen Oxides, Volatile Organic Compounds and Particulate Matter (including PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and Black Carbon) from Stationary Sources (ECE/EB.AIR/117);

(b) Guidance Document on Emission Control Techniques for Mobile Sources (ECE/EB.AIR/138), covering emissions of sulphur, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), dust (including PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and black carbon) and heavy metals;

(c) Guidance Document on Best Available Techniques for Controlling Emissions of Heavy Metals and their Compounds from the Source Categories Listed in Annex II to the Protocol on Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/116).

The budget foreseen for the organization of this workshop is \$60,000 and is partly covered by Germany.

Item 2.2.2

Further development of techno-economic tools for estimating costs of implementing best available techniques and complying with the requirements of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) in different sectors and its promotion, in particular in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

7. Distinct or cross-cutting activities will be implemented under item 2.2.2. It is envisaged to cover the following pollutants: sulphur, NO_x, non-methane VOCs and particulate matter. The costs of the activities are expected to be covered by France.

Item 2.2.3

Disseminate the methodology and the related tool for the analysis of available GAINS scenarios to estimate the potential technical upgrade to be implemented in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in accordance with the Gothenburg Protocol. Provide assistance to experts from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the application of this methodology.

8. The costs for the implementation of the activities under this item in the amount of \$8,000 will be covered by Italy. This does not include related travel expenses and organizational costs.

Item 2.2.4

Promote cooperation with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and other institutions and organizations.

9. In performing its tasks, the Task Force will cooperate with IIASA, the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other institutions and organizations. The related costs will be covered by France.

Item 2.2.5

Annual Task Force meetings to exchange information on techno-economic issues and network.

10. The Task Force will continue to hold annual meetings and report to the Working Group on Strategies and Review, highlighting policy-relevant messages and recommendations. The envisaged travel expenses and organizational costs in the amount of \$10,000 will be partly covered by France and Italy.

Item 2.2.6

Continue to develop and promote the regional Clearing House of Control Technologies.

11. The Task Force is planning to organize an evaluation committee to continue to develop and promote the Clearing House of Control Technologies involving experts from national administrations and industries. The related expenses will be covered by France.

Item 2.2.7

Promote the Guidelines for Estimation and Measurement of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds.

12. The Guidelines for Estimation and Measurement of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (ECE/EB.AIR/139) were adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session (Geneva, 15-16 December 2016). The Task Force will promote their implementation, in particular with regard to emissions from activities covered by annex VI to the Gothenburg Protocol, and work to increase capacity of national experts in monitoring and calculating emissions of volatile organic compounds. The foreseen budget for the implementation of this item is \$20,000.
