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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

### Working Group on Strategies and Review

#### Fifty-seventh session

Geneva, 21–24 May 2019

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 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 established the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues. In accordance with its revised mandate set out in the annex to decision 2018/7, the Task Force is required to report on progress in its work to the Working Group on Strategies and Review.

The report by the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues contained in the present document presents information on the progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1) with respect to activities relevant to the Task Force, as well as the outcomes of the fourth annual meeting of the Task Force (Brussels, 16 October 2018).

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

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## I. Introduction

1. The fourth annual meeting of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (Brussels, 16 October 2018) was organized by Italy and France, back to back with informal technical sessions (15–17 October 2018), held in the same venue to discuss in detail the draft Code of good practice and best available techniques for domestic solid fuel heating installations and the progress of work on the regional clearing house of control technologies, pursuant to decision 2014/2 of the Executive Body for the Convention.
2. The present document contains information on the outcomes of this meeting and on the progress made in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan for the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1) with respect to the activities relevant to the Task Force.

### A. Attendance

3. The Task Force meeting was attended by 37 experts, including those from Austria, Belarus, Belgium, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Sweden, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, and Ukraine.
4. Representatives of the French-German Institute for Environmental Research at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, the German Federal Environment Agency and the Inter-professional Technical Centre for Studies on Air Pollution, in their capacity as members of the technical secretariat of the Task Force, attended the meeting. A representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) secretariat and representatives of the scientific centres and other bodies under the Convention, including the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling and the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Coordinating Group), also participated in the meeting. Other participants included experts from the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands, the European Cement Association, the European Solvents Industry Group, Bioenergy Europe, the European Federation of Clean Air Associations, the European Chemical Industry Council, the Glass Alliance Europe, the European Committee of Manufacturers of Domestic Heating and Cooking Appliances and the International Cryosphere Climate Initiative and five experts from the private sector.
5. Simultaneous English-Russian interpretation was provided by Germany to facilitate the participation of the Russian-speaking experts. The participation of two experts from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and the representative of the secretariat were financially supported by France. The cost of catering services and coffee breaks was shared by France and Germany. All the presentations delivered, together with the detailed agenda of the meeting, are available on the website of the Task Force.<sup>1</sup>

### B. Organization of work

6. Tiziano Pignatelli (Italy) and Jean-Guy Bartaire (France), Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues, chaired the fourth annual meeting of the Task Force.
7. The meeting mainly focused on reporting on progress in the implementation of the workplan and sharing information on the work carried out by the technical secretariat of the

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://ftei.citepa.org/>.

Task Force in cooperation with its expert members. In particular, the discussion evolved around the following main points, in line with the current mandate of the Task Force:

- (a) Development of the Code of good practice and best available techniques for domestic solid fuel heating installations;
- (b) Revised mandate of the Task Force;
- (c) Status of development of the regional clearing house of control technology information;
- (d) Collaboration with countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Russian Federation;
- (e) Collaboration with other bodies of the Convention, in particular with the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling on the tasks included in the 2018-2019 workplan;
- (f) Cooperation with the European industrial associations.

## II. Progress in the implementation of the 2018–2019 workplan

8. This part of the report summarizes the status of progress in the implementation of activities assigned to the Task Force in the 2018–2019 workplan for the implementation of the Convention. The summaries are listed by workplan item.<sup>2</sup>

### Item 2.3.1

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

9. The organization of the workshop (Berlin, 14–16 May 2019) with financial resources made available by Germany is in progress. The official announcement and invitations will be circulated in early 2019.

### Item 2.3.2

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

10. The technical secretariat of the Task Force informed its members on the progress in drafting a number of technical reports, including in particular, the report<sup>3</sup> on abatement of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the coating of passenger cars. The report is largely used as a reference in the draft document of the European Union on best available techniques on surface treatment using organic solvents. Moreover, the packaging printing sector has also been addressed in the related technical report, in particular concerning flexography, rotogravure and laminating coating. This report served as a basis for the emission reduction investment and cost calculation (ERICCa) tool for estimating the

<sup>2</sup> In several cases the titles abbreviate or summarize much longer workplan items. For the full text of each item, see ECE/EB.AIR/140/Add.1.

<sup>3</sup> Available at:  
[http://tftci.citepa.org/images/files/costs\\_reduction\\_techniques\\_large\\_users\\_solvents/TFTEI-VOC-car-industry-final.pdf](http://tftci.citepa.org/images/files/costs_reduction_techniques_large_users_solvents/TFTEI-VOC-car-industry-final.pdf).

costs of VOC abatement options<sup>4</sup> in respective sector. The cement industry and aluminium industry sectors have been examined in respective technical reports. The report on the cement industry is close to finalization, whereas the one for aluminium industry is still under development.

**Item 2.3.3**

*Disseminate the methodology and update the related tool for the analysis of GAINS scenarios in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.*

11. The potential users of the methodology are currently limited to Belarus and the Russian Federation; the Task Force remains ready to provide support upon submission of new requests.

**Item 2.3.6**

*Continue to develop and promote the regional clearinghouse of control technology information.*

12. A new web page on mobile sources on the website of the clearing house of control technologies is currently being developed. It will include information on road vehicles, non-road mobile machinery and inland waterways ships. The Guidance Document on Emission Control Techniques for Mobile Sources (ECE/EB.AIR/138) and additional information on best available techniques for mobile sources will be available on this web page. The Task Force members have been encouraged to continue to improve and share additional reference documents by means of the clearing house.

**Item 2.3.8**

*Integration of additional measures in the clearing house for control technologies, and development of a code of good practice for solid-fuel burning and small combustion installations based on BAT.*

13. The members of the Task Force noted that the code could be used by Parties, policy makers and local authorities as a reference document for the development of easy-to-read materials for general public throughout the ECE region. The code of good practice (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2019/4, forthcoming) will be presented to and discussed by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-seventh session.

**Items 2.3.9 and 2.3.10**

*Review of the control costs currently used with a view to improve, on an ongoing basis, the cost-effectiveness analyses produced by the GAINS model - Produce a report for Policy makers that clearly sets out the costs of controls versus the costs of inaction to encourage ratification and implementation of the protocols*

14. The two tasks are carried out in cooperation with the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling. The Co-Chairs suggest that the update of the cost data should focus on the controls not yet included in the existing legislation, especially in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and be based on communications on the outcome of national research by Parties to the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling. An important study on the cost of inaction developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development should serve as a basis of the analysis, and both task forces will cooperate

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<sup>4</sup> Available for download at: <http://tftei.citepa.org/en/work-in-progress/costs-of-reduction-techniques-for-large-users-of-solvents>.

further to identify relevant documents, data, and national experts to be involved in the work.

### **III. Other relevant discussion points at the annual meeting**

15. A representative of the secretariat gave an overview of the latest activities under the Convention, highlighting the revised long-term strategy, the revised mandates of the task forces, the thematic session on residential wood held at the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 22–25 May 2018), the progress in ratification of the latest protocols and related Saltjöbaden VI workshop recommendations. Among other issues, she also informed participants of the recent capacity-building and outreach activities of the secretariat.

16. The Co-Chairs informed the Task Force members of the revision of mandates of task forces and centres under the Convention and related implications in terms of new tasks for the Task Force. These included assessing information on abatement technologies for emissions from shipping, methane emissions, investigating co-benefits and trade-offs between emission abatement technologies and policies for air pollution, climate change and nature. The new mandates were submitted to the Executive Body for consideration and adoption at its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 10–14 December 2018).

17. The Chair of the Coordinating Group informed participants of the outcomes of the meeting organized jointly with the Task Force (Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 19–20 September 2018). The issues discussed at the meeting included recent developments in air pollution abatement in the region, the Saltsjöbaden VI workshop outcomes, the update of the long-term strategy for the Convention, BAT implementation in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and others. He enunciated key messages on the progress achieved in the region and the next envisaged steps for further improvements.

18. An expert from Germany informed participants of an ongoing research project on industrial sources of mercury. The project was aimed at collecting comprehensive information on sources and abatement measures and developing proposals for a national mercury strategy for industry, which would include a cost analysis. The project covered more than 16 different sectors, which allowed for creating a basis for discussion of the national strategy aimed at further reduction of mercury emissions from industrial sources.

19. An expert from Belarus presented the results of a study on environmental aspects of solid fuel combustion in small installations in Belarus. She made an overview of the main sources and presented results of emission projections. Among existing challenges, there was a lack of emission control and monitoring systems, as well as the lack of a regulatory mechanism. The expert highlighted the high potential for emission reduction in this sector.

20. The president of the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations made an overview of the use of coal and wood in Europe and Poland focusing on the small combustion installations for heating purposes. Among the challenges he listed the lack of guidance on the use of solid fuel for heating and the lack of infrastructure to use alternative fuel. Poland launched the Clean Air Programme aimed at improved energy efficiency, progressive replacement of old appliances and promotion of renewable energy. The government has also launched an awareness raising campaign and facilitated the implementation of Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament establishing a framework for the setting of eco-design requirements for energy-related products.

21. A representative of the European Committee of Manufacturers of Domestic Heating and Cooking Appliances made a comprehensive overview of the domestic heating

appliances highlighting the significant difference in the use of biomass for heating among the Member States of the European Union caused by difference in the cost of fuel. He stressed the importance of the five-pillar principle in pursuing the high quality in the combustion process: a good appliance, a good fuel, a good installation, good maintenance and a user best practice. Technology plays a fundamental role in reducing emissions, as proved, for instance, by the modern pellet appliances.

22. An expert from France shared experience in wood burning in the residential heating sector in France. She informed participants of the national air pollution control program adopted in May 2017 that covered industry, transport, residential and agricultural sectors. As for the residential heating sector, the objective of the program was to introduce energy efficiency measures, to make an equipment upgrade, to perform market surveillance of wood burning and to raise awareness of best practices.

23. An expert from an electricity enterprise presented the results of a study on the use of high performances engines plants in French islands. The study demonstrated that due to extreme variations of electricity demand, fluctuating input from renewable power sources, the lack of space, water, infrastructure and restricted fuel choices, land based stationary engines were the best and common choice in small islands. They offered good operational flexibility and were efficient to operate across a range of power demands. Liquid fuels fired stationary engines and open cycle gas turbines were the mainly used technologies, which demonstrated good environmental performance and allowed to comply with the national legislation.

#### **IV. Activities of the Task Force in 2020–2021**

24. Taking into account the new tasks included in the revised mandate of the Task Force, the Co-chairs have identified new challenges and priorities in the work of the Task Force in 2020–2021. These priorities include: starting the work to assess information on emission abatement technologies for the reduction of the atmospheric emissions of methane and emissions from marine shipping. In addition to that, the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues in cooperation with the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling would develop a guidance document to support Parties in prioritizing sources of particulate matter to fulfil their reduction obligations under the revised Gothenburg Protocol. Moreover, in case the revised Gothenburg Protocol enters into force in 2019, the Task Force on Techno-economic Issues is expected to be involved in the review of the annexes to the Gothenburg Protocol in the following years.

#### **V. Annual meetings of the Task Force**

25. The next annual meeting of the Task Force will take place in the second half of 2019 at a venue and a time to be decided after consultations with the members.

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