



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 September 2020

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for
Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range
Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe

Working Group on Effects

Sixth joint session

Geneva, 14–17 September 2020

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and administrative issues

Revised annotated provisional agenda for the sixth joint session

To be held virtually, starting at 1 p.m. on Monday, 14 September 2020

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and administrative issues.
2. Financial and budgetary matters:
 - (a) Working Group on Effects;
 - (b) Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe.
3. Latest news from the Convention.
4. Review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone:
 - (a) Questions to subsidiary bodies of the Convention;
 - (b) Recommendations for the review: scientific perspective (views from scientific centres, task forces and International Cooperative Programmes).
5. Progress in activities in 2020 and future work:
 - (a) Working Group on Effects;
 - (b) Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe:
 - (i) Adjustments under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone and improvement and reporting of emission data;

- (ii) Measurements and modelling;
 - (iii) Integrated assessment modelling;
 - (iv) Hemispheric transport of air pollution;
6. Joint thematic session: ozone pollution.
 7. Joint thematic session: condensables.
 8. Conclusions and recommendations.
 9. Election of officers:
 - (a) Working Group on Effects;
 - (b) Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe
 10. Information-sharing by Parties.
 11. Closing of the meeting.

II. Introduction

1. The two bodies will hold their sixth joint session virtually from 14 to 17 September 2020.

III. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and administrative issues

2. The secretariat will provide information about administrative issues including the rules for the virtual format of the meeting. The Steering Body to EMEP and the Working Group on Effects will be invited to adopt the agenda for their sixth joint session as set out in the present document.¹ The provisional time schedule is presented in informal document *Organization of work during the sixth joint session*.

Documentation

Organization of work during the sixth joint session (informal document)

2. Financial and budgetary matters

3. The secretariat will introduce the note on financial and budgetary matters and will report on any updates regarding the payment of mandatory, voluntary and in-kind contributions to EMEP and to co-fund effects-oriented activities in 2019 and 2020. The secretariat will also update participants on the contracts for the Convention centres in 2020 and the information provided by the centres on the total costs of their operation.

(a) Working Group on Effects

4. Participants are expected to discuss the budget for the centres under the Working Group in 2021.

(b) Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe

5. Participants are expected to discuss and adopt the detailed budget for the EMEP centres in 2021, and to submit the budget proposal to the Executive Body for its approval.

¹ Documentation for the session and other information materials will be made available on the web page for the session (www.unece.org/index.php?id=52860).

Documentation

Financial and budgetary matters
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/19–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/12)

3. Latest news from the Convention

6. The Chair of the Executive Body for the Convention and the secretariat will inform participants about matters arising from the thirty-ninth session of the Executive Body (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019) (see ECE/EB.AIR/144).

7. The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group will present a summary of the work of their Bureaux since the fifth joint session. Participants are expected to discuss and provide guidance for further work on cooperation with other bodies under the Convention and the future activities of the two Bureaux.

Documentation

Activities of the Bureaux of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe and the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/9–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/20).

4. Review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

8. At its thirty-ninth session, the Executive Body adopted decision 2019/4 whereby it initiated the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012 and also requested the subsidiary bodies of the Convention to prioritize work that supports the review. The annex to decision 2019/4 contains a list of potential elements that could inform the scope and content of the review.

(a) Questions to subsidiary bodies of the Convention;

9. Participants are expected to discuss and respond to questions posed by the Gothenburg Protocol review group lead by Ms. Kimber Scavo (United States of America). The questions are collected in an informal document prepared by the review group.

Documentation

Questions to Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention for the Gothenburg Protocol Review (informal document - forthcoming)

(b) Recommendations for the review: scientific perspective (views from scientific centres, task forces and International Cooperative Programmes)

10. Further to the scientific and technical inputs listed in section D of the annex to decision 2019/4, participants may wish to discuss some new potential elements proposed by the Extended Bureaux of the Working Group on Effects and of the Steering Body to EMEP, including:

- (a) Protection of marine ecosystems;
- (b) Chemicals of emerging concern – substances introduced by industry replacing those banned, such as new persistent organic pollutants, pesticides or microplastics;
- (c) Biogenic emissions, natural sources and biomass burning in atmospheric and integrated modelling;
- (d) Effect of air pollutant emission changes outside the ECE region on concentrations and depositions within the ECE region.

11. The EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects are expected to discuss and agree on the timeline for providing the scientific input to the process of the protocol review.

5. Progress in activities in 2020 and future work

(a) Working Group on Effects

12. Participants will discuss the 2020 joint progress report on policy-relevant scientific findings, which will highlight the main outcomes of the work under EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group on Effects. They will also consider technical documents from the international cooperative programmes on the effects-oriented activities in the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR.144/Add.2), as well as other documents and publications made available by the international cooperative programmes. Lead countries will draw attention to recent activities on ecosystems monitoring, modelling and mapping, publications and task force meetings.

13. The review of recent results will cover the following pollution-specific topics:

- (a) cross-cutting items;
- (b) acidification and nutrient nitrogen;
- (c) ozone; and
- (d) particulate matter, heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants.

Under each topic, representatives of international cooperative programmes will report on the implementation of the relevant workplan items and the other work carried out. The presentations will also include issues from the technical reports of the international cooperative programmes and workshops.

14. Representatives of the Bureau of the Working Group on Effects and international cooperative programmes will report on progress in implementing the recommendations from the review of the cooperative programmes, including progress in setting up a common web page for the Working Group.

15. Participants are expected to take note of the technical reports and the completion of the respective 2020–2021 workplan items. They may wish to provide guidance for future work.

Documentation

2020 joint progress report on policy-relevant scientific findings
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/3–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/3)

Effects of air pollution on forests
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/11–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/4)

Effects of air pollution on rivers and lakes
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/12–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/5)

Effects of air pollution on materials
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/13–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/6)

Effects of air pollution on natural vegetation and crops
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/14–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/7)

Integrated monitoring on air pollution effects on ecosystems
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/15–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/8)

Modelling and mapping
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/16–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/9)

Effects of air pollution on health
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/17–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/10)

(b) Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe

16. Participants are expected to consider progress in the activities of EMEP in 2020 and in relation to the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention.

Representatives of centres and task forces will present the main achievements and difficulties in the implementation of the 2020–2021 workplan items, and their relevance in connection with the goals of the long-term strategy for the Convention for 2020–2030 and beyond (Executive Body decision 2018/5).

Documentation

2020 joint progress report on policy-relevant scientific findings
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/3– ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/3)

(i) Adjustments under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone and improvement and reporting of emission data

17. *Adjustments under the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone:* The representatives of the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections and the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections will inform the Steering Body about the outcome of the analyses of requests by ten Parties (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) to apply the adjustment procedure. One Party (Czechia) submitted new adjustment applications while the other Parties submitted data for adjustments approved in previous years.

18. The Steering Body is expected to consider the outcome of the analyses and make recommendations to the Executive Body at its fortieth session.

Documentation

Review of adjustment applications
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/10–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/21)

19. *Improvement and reporting of emission data:* The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Emission Inventories and Projections will report on progress made, including the results of the annual joint meeting of the Task Force with the European Environment Agency European Environment Information and Observation Network (online, 11–14 May 2020).

20. A representative of the Centre on Emission Inventories and Projections will inform the Steering Body about the status of emissions data reporting, the work of the Centre and the work on data quality. She will report on progress in the inventory improvement programme, in particular as regards the stage 3 in-depth reviews of the emission inventories and the experiences gained in the 2020 review.

21. Participants will discuss and review quality assurance issues regarding national emission inventories. Some national experts from Parties may be invited to present their views on emissions reported to the Convention, especially when significant changes in emission estimates are reported from one year to another.

22. The EMEP Steering Body is expected to provide some guidance on work on this issue.

Documentation

Emission inventories and projections
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/6– ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/17)

Present state of emission data, review process and data for modellers
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/7– ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/18)

(ii) Measurements and modelling

23. The EMEP status and technical reports relevant for the evaluation of progress made in 2020 (see documentation list below) will be made available on the EMEP website.² Under this subitem, representatives of the EMEP task forces and centres will report on progress in measurements and modelling activities as follows:

² See http://emep.int/emep_publications.html.

(a) The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling will report on progress, including the results of the twenty-first meeting of the Task Force (online, 11–13 May 2020);

(b) A representative of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West will give an overview of the activities on monitoring and modelling of acidification, eutrophication and photo-oxidants, including progress made by the Chemical Coordinating Centre and the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling, the work of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West, discussions within the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and plans for future work until the end of 2020;

(c) A representative of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East will present an overview of the activities on monitoring and modelling of heavy metals, progress by the Chemical Coordinating Centre, the work of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East, discussions within the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and plans for future work until the end of 2020;

(d) A representative of the Chemical Coordinating Centre will present an overview of activities on atmospheric monitoring and modelling of particulate matter, including with respect to work at the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West and the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling, the work of the Chemical Coordinating Centre, the results of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and plans for future work until the end of 2020;

(e) A representative of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East will present an overview of activities on monitoring and modelling of persistent organic pollutants, including with respect to work at the Chemical Coordinating Centre, the work of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East, the results of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling and plans for future work until the end of 2020.

24. Participants are expected to:

(a) Discuss the status of implementation of the monitoring strategy;

(b) Discuss progress made with respect to cooperation with national experts, and provide guidance on means for its improvement;

(c) Discuss progress made in modelling and monitoring activities in 2020 in all the areas of work mentioned above and provide guidance on the further development of that work;

(d) Provide guidance on the further development of the measurement and modelling work.

Documentation

Measurements and modelling (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/4–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/15)

EMEP Status Report 1/20, *Transboundary particulate matter, photo-oxidants, acidifying and eutrophying components* (forthcoming)³

EMEP Status Report 2/20, *Assessment of transboundary pollution by toxic substances: Heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants* (forthcoming)

(iii) Integrated assessment modelling

25. The Chair of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling will report on Task Force activities, including the results of its forty-ninth meeting (online, 20–22 April 2020). A representative of the Centre for Integrated Assessment Modelling will also report on activities. The participants are expected to discuss progress made and to provide further guidance on the integrated assessment modelling work.

Documentation

Integrated assessment modelling

³ EMEP status reports for 2020 will be published in the summer or autumn. At present, the names of the final authors and other publishing details are not available.

(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/5–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/16)

(iv) Hemispheric transport of air pollution

26. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution will report on the results of recent activities and meetings that the Task Force co-organized or to which it contributed. Participants are expected to discuss and approve the main findings of the Task Force and to provide guidance for its further work.

Documentation

Hemispheric transport of air pollution
(ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2020/8–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2020/19)

Answers to four policy-relevant questions about hemispheric transport of air pollution (informal document)

6. Joint thematic session: ozone pollution

27. A joint thematic session will be held to discuss ozone pollution. The session will give EMEP centres, task forces and international cooperative programmes under the Working Group on Effects the opportunity to present a number of results and conclusions from their work relevant to the questions to be considered.

28. During the thematic session the focus will be on the extent, trends and sources of ground-level ozone in the ECE region. Participants will address the following questions:

(a) What is the current scientific knowledge and understanding about ozone pollution and its sources?

(b) What are the scientific needs with respect to ozone pollution from the short- and long-term perspectives?

(c) From the perspective of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, which indicators should be promoted to assess impacts of ozone on ecosystems?

29. Participants are expected to provide guidance and recommendations for further actions and activities regarding ozone pollution, including providing support to Parties.

7. Joint thematic session: condensables

30. A joint thematic session will be held to discuss the issues of condensables. The session will give EMEP centres, task forces and international cooperative programmes under the Working Group on Effects the opportunity to present a number of results and conclusions from their work relevant to the questions to be considered.

31. A representative of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-West will present the outcomes of the workshop on the best approaches in treatment of condensables in emission inventories and modelling (online, 17–19 March 2020), organized as part of a research project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. An advanced draft of the report will be available as an informal document at the sixth joint session.

32. Participants are expected to:

(a) Discuss available options on how to improve the treatment (completeness and consistency) of condensables in EMEP modelling and reporting of national emission inventories;

(b) Provide guidance and recommendations for further actions and activities, including providing support to Parties;

(c) Forward the guidance and recommendations to the Executive Body for consideration at its fortieth session.

8. Conclusions and recommendations

33. The Chairs of the EMEP Steering Body and the Working Group of Effects will present a summary of the conclusions and recommendations from the meeting.

9. Election of officers

(a) Working Group on Effects

34. At the fourth joint session (Geneva, 10–14 September 2018), Ms. Isaura Rábago (Spain) was re-elected as Chair of the Working Group on Effects. Ms. Alessandra De Marco (Italy) and Ms. Sonja Vidič (Croatia) were elected as new Vice-Chairs, and Ms. Sabine Augustin (Switzerland), Mr. Jesper Bak (Denmark), Mr. Thomas Dirnböck (Austria) and Ms. Gudrun Schütze (Germany) were re-elected as Vice-Chairs. All Bureau members were elected for a two-year term (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2018/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2018/2, para. 8).

35. The Working Group is expected to elect its chair and three or more vice-chairs following the rules of procedure adopted by the Executive Body for the Convention at its twenty-eighth session, which also apply to the Working Group (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/19, annex, rule 21, para. 1). In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, chairs and vice-chairs are elected for a two-year term of office and are eligible for re-election, but may not serve more than two consecutive terms unless the Executive Body decides otherwise. The Working Group may also wish to decide on continuing to allow representation of the European Commission at Bureau meetings.

(b) Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe

36. At the fourth joint session in 2018, Ms. Laurence Rouil (France) was re-elected as Chair of the EMEP Steering Body. Mr. Xavier Querol (Spain), Ms. Vidič (Croatia) and Mr. Rudolf Weber (Switzerland) were re-elected as Vice-Chairs. All Bureau members were elected for a two-year term (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2018/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2018/2, para. 7).

37. The Steering Body is expected to elect its chair and three or more vice-chairs following the rules of procedure adopted by the Executive Body for the Convention at its twenty-eighth session, which also apply to the Steering Body. The Steering Body may also wish to decide on continuing to allow representation of the European Commission at Bureau meetings.

10. Information-sharing by Parties

38. Representatives of Parties are invited to prepare and present their national experiences in implementing monitoring and modelling activities under EMEP and/or their national effects-oriented activities. Parties are requested to present both successes in implementation and also obstacles thereto.

39. Participants are expected to consider the national experiences presented at the session and to recommend that similar exchanges of information be continued at future sessions.

11. Closing of the meeting

40. The secretariat will present an outline of the meeting report. Participants are expected to adopt the decisions taken during the joint session and give directions to the secretariat for finalizing the report.