

Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention:
Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related
policies, strategies and measures

**Background information and template
for the submission of
examples of good practices with regard to air pollution related policies, strategies and measures**

I. Background

1. The Executive Body, at its thirty-sixth session, adopted decision 2016/3 on Improving the effectiveness of reporting on strategies, policies and other measures to implement obligations under the Convention and its Protocols. This decision stipulates that “*the period for reporting the information referred to in article 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the 1994 Protocol on Further Reductions of Sulphur Emissions, article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Heavy Metals, article 9, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and article 7, paragraph 1 (a), of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (Gothenburg Protocol) is at least once every four years*”. As per this decision, the Executive Body also “*invites States and organizations referred to in article 14, paragraph 1, of the Convention that are not Parties to these four Protocols to provide information on strategies, policies and measures to abate air pollution at the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.*”

2. The present document provides background information on the obligations to report on strategies, policies and measures for the respective Protocols. The enclosed template has been developed to facilitate the submission by Parties of examples of and good practices with regard to different regulatory, voluntary, economic and other measures relating to air pollution in advance of WGSR’s fifty-sixth session to be held in Geneva on 22-25 May 2018. Following the request of the Working Group at its fifty-fifth session, the template now includes information on respective pollutants and protocols and the method used for analysis.

3. Heads of Delegations and other participants in the fifty-sixth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review are invited to submit to the secretariat case studies/examples which could be of interest to other countries and thus to the policy discussion at the WGSR session. Parties that had not yet shared such information at the previous sessions of the Working Group are particularly invited to do so. An overview of the previous reporting at WGSR sessions since 2013 is available on the Convention website: <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/envlrapwelcome/convention-bodies/working-group-on-strategies-and-review/strategies-and-policies-for-the-abatement-of-air-pollution.html>

In order to facilitate the preparation of the policy discussion on the basis of the examples submitted, please send your examples to air_meetings@unece.org by **16 April 2018**.

4. Examples could comprise, amongst others, economic measures such as financial incentives or disincentives (such as taxes, subsidies, set prices or caps/ceilings, payments, rebates), voluntary measures (such as voluntary agreements, programmes or contracts), regulatory or legislative measures or other measures (such as educational or informational measures). They can include policies, strategies and measures emanating from different sectors with positive effects on air pollution abatement (such as

acts/laws on sustainable transport, sustainable agriculture/farming, energy, green building, biodiversity conservation and enhancement). A more detailed description of the implementation of your chosen policy, strategy or measure and related challenges and problems as well as solutions would be more useful than the presentation of many different examples. Furthermore, your examples could also be useful to other Parties even if they have not been successful by indicating why this was the case. You are thus also invited to submit experiences that cover such items as:

- a) A measure that was less effective than you anticipated and why;
- b) A measure that was actually more effective than you predicted;
- c) A measure that had particular implementation challenges – what were they and how did you address them;
- d) A measure that was either less expensive or more expensive than you had estimated. What caused the increased or decreased costs?
- e) Goals that were set and were met by innovative strategies.

II. Obligations under the Protocols to the Convention to report on strategies, policies and measures

II.1 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures under the 1994 Sulphur, Heavy Metals, POPs and Gothenburg Protocols

7. In accordance with decision 2013/2 adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-second session, *“the sessions of the Working Group on Strategies and Review shall be considered the format for reporting on strategies, policies, and measures referenced in Article 5.1 of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol, Article 7.2 of the Heavy Metals Protocol, Article 7.2 of the Protocol on POPs, and Article 7.2 of the Gothenburg Protocol”*. In accordance with Decision 2016/3 adopted by the Executive Body at its thirty-sixth session, *the period for reporting is at least once every four years.*

II.1.1 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures under the 1994 Sulphur and the Gothenburg Protocol

8. Article 4 of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol requires that *“[each] Party shall, in order to implement its obligations under article 2: (a) adopt national strategies, policies and programmes, no later than six months after the present Protocol enters into force for it; and (b) take and apply national measures to control and reduce its sulphur emissions”*. Article 5 of the 1994 Sulphur Protocol on “Reporting” stipulates that *“each Party shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to the Executive Body, on a periodic basis as determined by the Executive Body, information on: (a) the implementation of national strategies, policies, programmes and measures referred to in article 4, paragraph 1; [...] (c) the implementation of other obligations that it has entered into under the present Protocol, in conformity with a decision regarding format and content to be adopted by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body. The terms of this decision shall be reviewed as necessary to identify any additional elements regarding the format and/or content of the information that are to be included in the reports”*.

9. The 1994 Sulphur Protocol sets emission ceilings for 2005 and 2010 for some Parties. With the exception of Austria, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein and Monaco, all Parties to the 1994 Sulphur Protocol have also ratified or acceded to the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol which sets ceilings for 2010.

10. Article 6 of the Gothenburg Protocol stipulates that *“each Party shall, as necessary and on the basis of sound scientific and economic criteria, in order to facilitate the implementation of its obligations under article 3: (a) adopt supporting strategies, policies and programmes without undue delay after the present Protocol enters into force for it;[...]*” Paragraph 1 of Article 7 on “Reporting” stipulates that *“subject to its laws and regulations and in accordance with its obligations under the present Protocol: (a) each Party shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to the Executive Body, on a periodic basis as determined by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body, information on the measures that it has taken to implement the present Protocol”*. Paragraph 2 stipulates that *“the information to be reported in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) shall be in conformity with a decision regarding format and content to be adopted by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body. The terms of this decision shall be reviewed as necessary to identify any additional elements regarding the format or the content of the information that is to be included in the reports.”*

11. In 2012, amendments to the Gothenburg Protocol and its annexes were adopted by decisions 2012/1, 2012/2 and 2012/3. In addition, Parties adopted decision 2012/4 on the Provisional application of the amendments to the Protocol, which enables Parties to make use of the adjustment procedure under decision 2012/3 immediately.

12. Sulphur as a pollutant is covered by both the Gothenburg Protocol and the 1994 Sulphur Protocol. Moreover, the following pollutants are covered by the Gothenburg Protocol: nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ammonia (NH₃) and volatile organic compounds (VOC).

13. In accordance with Decision 2013/2, Parties to the 1994 Sulphur and Gothenburg Protocol are thus invited to report on the design and implementation of strategies, policies and measures to implement obligations under the 1994 Sulphur Protocol and the Gothenburg Protocol, notably to abate pollution of sulphur, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and volatile organic compounds.

II.1.1 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures under the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Protocol on POPs)

14. Article 7 of the Protocol on POPs requires that each Party shall, no later than six months after the date on which this Protocol enters into force for it, develop strategies, policies and programmes in order to discharge its obligations under the present Protocol. Article 9, paragraph 1 of the Protocol on POPs on “Reporting” stipulates that *“subject to its laws governing the confidentiality of commercial information: (a) each Party shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to the Executive Body, on a periodic basis as determined by the Parties meeting within the Executive Body, information on the measures that it has taken to implement the present Protocol”*. Furthermore, paragraph 2 of article 9 stipulates that *“the information to be reported in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) above shall be in conformity with a decision regarding format and content to be adopted by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body. The terms of this decision shall be reviewed as necessary to identify any additional elements regarding the format or the content of the information that is to be included in the reports.”*

15. In 2009, amendments to the Protocol on POPs were adopted through decisions 2009/1, 2009/2 and 2009.

16. The pollutants covered by the Protocol on POPs are the following: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), hexachlorobenzene (HCB), and dioxins/furans.

17. In accordance with decision 2013/2, Parties to the Protocol on POPs are thus invited to report at the WGSR session on the design and implementation of strategies, policies, and measures employed to implement obligations under the Protocol on POPs, notably to reduce emissions of PAH, HCB and dioxins/furans.

II.1.1 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures under the Protocol on Heavy Metals

18. Article 5 of the Protocol on Heavy Metals stipulates “*each Party shall develop, without undue delay, strategies, policies and programmes to discharge its obligations under the present Protocol.*” Paragraph 1 of Article 7 on “Reporting” requires that “*subject to its laws governing the confidentiality of commercial information: (a) each Party shall report, through the Executive Secretary of the Commission, to the Executive Body, on a periodic basis as determined by the Parties meeting within the Executive Body, information on the measures that it has taken to implement the present Protocol.*” Paragraph 2 stipulates that “*the information to be reported in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) above shall be in conformity with a decision regarding format and content to be adopted by the Parties at a session of the Executive Body. The terms of this decision shall be reviewed as necessary to identify any additional elements regarding the format or the content of the information that is to be included in the reports.*”

19. In 2012, amendments to the Protocol and its annexes were adopted by decisions 2012/5 and 2012/6.

20. The pollutants covered by the Protocol on Heavy Metals are cadmium, lead and mercury.

21. In accordance with decision 2013/2, Parties to the Protocol on Heavy Metals are invited to report at the WGSR session on the design and implementation of strategies, policies, and measures employed to implement obligations under the Protocol on Heavy Metals, notably to reduce emission of mercury, lead and cadmium.

II.2 Reporting on strategies, policies and measures by Parties to the Protocol concerning the control of Nitrogen Oxides or their transboundary fluxes (Protocol on NOx) and the Protocol concerning the control of emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds and their transboundary fluxes (Protocol on VOC)

22. In accordance with decision 2013/2, “*Parties to the Protocol on NOx and the Protocol on VOC may utilize the time set aside during the annual session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to report on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies, and measures to implement obligations under the respective Protocols in satisfaction of their obligations under Article 8.1 of the Protocol on NOx and Article 8.2 of the Protocol on VOC.*”

23. Article 7 of the 1988 Protocol on NOx stipulates that “*Parties shall develop without undue delay national programmes, policies and strategies to implement the obligations under the present Protocol that shall serve as a means of controlling and reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes.*” Article 8 requires

that “Parties shall exchange information by notifying the Executive Body of the national programmes, policies and strategies that they develop in accordance with article 7 and by reporting to it annually on progress achieved under, and any changes to, those programmes, policies and strategies, [...]” Paragraph 2 of article 8 stipulates that “such information shall, as far as possible, be submitted in accordance with a uniform reporting framework.”

24. Article 7 of the 1991 Protocol on VOC stipulates that “Parties shall develop without undue delay national programmes, policies and strategies to implement the obligations under the present Protocol that shall serve as a means of controlling and reducing emissions of VOCs or their transboundary fluxes.” Article 8 on “Information exchange and annual reporting” provides that “Parties shall exchange information by notifying the Executive Body of the national programmes, policies and strategies that they develop in accordance with article 7, and by reporting to it progress achieved under, and any changes to, those programmes, policies and strategies [...]” Paragraph 4 of article 8 stipulates that “such information shall, as far as possible, be submitted in accordance with a uniform reporting framework”.

25. The majority of the Parties to the NO_x and VOC Protocols are also Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol, which covers the pollutants covered by the NO_x and VOC Protocols. Parties to the NO_x Protocol that are not Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol are the following: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Russian Federation, Ukraine. Parties to the VOC Protocol not Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol are the following: Austria, Estonia, Italy, Monaco, Liechtenstein. In accordance with decision 2013/2, the Parties listed above may wish to consider reporting on changes or revisions to their policies, strategies, and measures to implement obligations under the respective NO_x or VOC Protocols.

26. As it is not possible to cover all the above issues in one meeting, Parties are invited to inform the secretariat of the information they may wish to provide on a particular measure at the WSGR session, by submitting the enclosed template **by 16 April 2018** by writing to air_meetings@unece.org. The priority for presentations would be given to Parties that have not yet shared their experience during previous WSGR sessions and to Parties that would submit their inputs by the indicated deadline, taking due account of the available time. Presentations could take place either under agenda item 5 a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures, or agenda item 5 b) Current policy issues: thematic session on residential wood combustion and air pollution.

III. Template to facilitate the submission of examples/good practices of strategies, policies and measures employed to implement obligations under any of the protocols to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

<p>Country: Germany</p>	<p>Pollutant(s): <i>particulate matter (PM) including black carbon (BC) and unintentionally released persistent organic pollutants (uPOPs), such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)</i></p>
<p>Protocol(s): <i>Gothenburg Protocol (as amended in 2012) POP Protocol (as amended in 2009)</i></p>	<p>Sector: <i>Domestic heating; small businesses</i></p>
<p>Type of strategy, policy or measure and the level of implementation: <i>legislation; national regulation</i></p>	<p>Method used for the current analysis: <i>research project; amongst others: evaluation of data collected by chimney sweepers</i></p>
<p>What is the main objective of the strategy, policy or measure? When has it been implemented/or will be implemented? <i>The German “ordinance regarding small and medium sized combustion installations – 1st BImSchV” was amended in 2010. The regulation covers all combustion plants in private households and small business, but the focus of the revision was on installations using solid fuels. Existing installations (installed before March 22nd, 2010) have to comply with regulations for emission limits of dust and carbon monoxide. If they overstep their emission limit, they have to be retrofitted or they have to be shut down. The date when the relevant emission limits for existing combustion plants come into effect depends on their age. The transition periods serve the operators of the combustion plants to prearrange the retrofitting or the exchange of the installations. All plants installed since March 22nd, 2010 count as new installations that have to fulfil high requirements, particularly regarding the emission limits of dust and carbon monoxide. To grant the manufacturer of small combustion plants for solid fuels adequate time for research and development, the new ambitious emission limits were launched in two steps (March 22nd, 2010 and January 1st, 2015). The combustion conditions needed to attain the dust and CO limit values will considerably reduce BC and uPOP emissions.</i></p>	
<p>Background and driving forces: <i>Because of an increase of the use of solid fuels in the 1990s and 2000s in small and medium combustion plants, the emissions – especially of PM – from boilers and wood stoves have increased. The German Environmental Agency prognosticated an ongoing increase of those emissions if no measures would have been implemented.</i></p>	

*Therefore the 1st BImSchV contains ambitious requirements for combustion plants for solid fuels, including emission limits and efficiency requirements.
Because of the high share in the PM emissions of existing plants the regulation contains requirements for those installations, to refit or renew the inventory of solid fuel boilers and stoves.*

Description of the strategy, policy or measure:

On a regular basis, chimney sweepers visit the homes (and small industry) to check all heat-producing plants in terms of fire protection and safe operational state. She/He also performs the sweeping of the chimney. The storage of the fuel as well as the fuel itself (e.g. humidity < 25 %) is checked by the chimney sweeper. In addition she/he surveys the compliance of the combustion plants with the emission limits.

The 1st BImSchV is executed by the authority of the Federal States exclusively. The responsible authorities are different administrative bodies, like a regulatory agency i.e., depending on the structure of the Federal State.

The responsible authority can order further requirements for a small combustion plant if humans and/or the environment are affected. The responsible authority is empowered to shut down an installation, but every individual case has to be considered.

In areas, where air concentration limits are exceeded, the responsible authority can enact "Clean Air Plans". Those plans can include a general or temporary ban of wood stoves, if there is a problem with particulate matter.

Costs, Funding and Revenue allocation:

The visits of the chimney sweeper has to be paid by the owner/operator of the installation. The costs depends on the measure taken.

The measurement of the emissions of a boiler for example costs around 120 Euro.

Effect and impacts on air pollution abatement:

A current research project is about to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures of the 1st BImSchV.

Meanwhile, the emission data of the German Environmental Agency show a plateau of the PM emissions deriving from solid fuel burning. So it appears that the forecast raise of dust emission could be prevented.

References/Further information:

The German Environmental Agency provides information about air pollution including the development of different pollutants like PM over the last decades on its website.

For example:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/indicator-emission-of-air-pollutants#textpart-1>

It also provides a brochure about heating with wood:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/publikationen/heating-wood-a-guide-to-clean-proper-heating>

The Federal Ministry for the Environment launched a new website for wood burning in November 2017, which will be filled up with more information over the time. It contains some background information, answers to frequently asked questions and recommended actions for a better use of wood stoves for less emissions.

It is available only in German language, yet:

www.bmu.de/heizen-mit-holz

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