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Economic Commission for Europe

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

Forty-first session

Geneva, 6–8 December 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the forty-first session

To be held as a hybrid session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 6 December 2021*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its fortieth session.
3. Report on credentials.
4. Review of the implementation of the 2020–2021 workplan:
 - (a) Science;
 - (b) Policy;
 - (c) Compliance;
 - (d) Capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation;
 - (e) Communication, outreach and cooperation.
5. Review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone.

* Delegates attending the meeting are requested to register online by **15 November 2021** through the relevant link: <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Air-Pollution/events/350953>. There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions, only a limited number of delegates can attend the session in-person. Please find further information on in-person attendance and related restrictions on the meeting web page. This will be a paperless meeting. All the documentation for the session and related information will be posted on the meeting web page. Delegates should bring copies of any documentation they will require. On the day of the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge from the Pass and Identification Unit at the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). A map is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: <https://unece.org/practical-information-delegates>.



6. Financial requirements for implementation of the Convention.
7. Forum for international cooperation on air pollution.
8. Draft 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention.
9. Review of the rules of procedure for the Executive Body.
10. Election of officers.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the draft report on the forty-first session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 6 December, morning

The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution is invited to adopt the agenda for its forty-first session as set out in the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the forty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/147)

2. Adoption of the report of the Executive Body on its fortieth session

Tentative timing: Monday, 6 December, morning

The Executive Body is invited to adopt the report on its fortieth session (Geneva, 18 December 2020).

Documentation

Report of the Executive Body on its fortieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/146)

3. Report on credentials

Tentative timing: Monday, 6 December, morning

Delegations will be invited to submit their credentials to the secretariat in advance of the session. The officers of the session will examine the credentials and report on them to the Executive Body. The Executive Body is invited to take note of the report on credentials.

4. Review of the implementation of the 2020–2021 workplan

Tentative timing: Monday, 6 December, morning and afternoon

The Executive Body will be invited to review the implementation of the 2020–2021 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.2).

(a) Science

Considering the main outcomes, conclusions and recommendations of the seventh joint session of the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects (Geneva, 13–16 September 2021), as contained in the report of the session (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2021/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2021/2, forthcoming), the Executive Body

will be invited to take note of the progress in the implementation of section I of the workplan (science).

Documentation

Report of the seventh joint session 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.1/2021/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2021/2, forthcoming)

(b) Policy

The Executive Body will be invited to take note of the progress in the implementation of section II of the workplan (policy) and of the outcomes of the fifty-ninth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 18–21 May 2021).

The Executive Body will be invited to take note of the assessment report on ammonia and to adopt the following draft guidance documents forwarded to it by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-ninth session:

(a) Draft guidance document on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning;

(b) Prioritizing reductions of particulate matter from sources that are also significant sources of black carbon – analysis and guidance.

The secretariat will provide up-to-date information on the status of ratification of the amendments to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (the Gothenburg Protocol), the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Protocol on Heavy Metals.

The Executive Body will be also invited to consider the proposal by the European Union – forwarded to it by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-ninth session¹– for a decision on methodology to update tables 2 to 6 of annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol as amended to account for changes in the membership of the European Union.

Documentation

Draft guidance document on reduction of emissions from agricultural residue burning (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/5)

Prioritizing reductions of particulate matter from sources that are also significant sources of black carbon – analysis and guidance (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/6)

Assessment report on ammonia (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/7 and informal document No. 1)

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/8)

Proposal of the European Union on methodology to update tables 2 to 6 of annex II to the Gothenburg Protocol (informal document No. 2)

(c) Compliance

The Executive Body will be invited to take note of progress in the implementation of section III of the workplan (compliance), and in particular the twenty-fourth report of the Implementation Committee, prepared based on the outcomes of the forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions of the Committee (Geneva (online), 5 and 6 May 2021, and 14–16 September 2021, respectively).

Documentation

Twenty-fourth report of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/3)

Compliance with reporting obligations (informal document No. 3)

¹ ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/126 (advance version), para. 44.

(d) Capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation

The Executive Body will be invited to take note of the information on the implementation of section IV of the workplan (capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation), as contained in the reports of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and the secretariat.

Documentation

Report of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (informal document No. 4)

Report of the secretariat (informal document No. 5)

(e) Communication, outreach and cooperation

The Executive Body will be invited to take note of the information on the implementation of section V of the workplan (communication, outreach and cooperation), as contained in the report of the secretariat. The Executive Body will be invited to take note of the information provided.

At its fifty-ninth session, the Working Group on Strategies and Review noted the usefulness of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air initiative as an instrument to support countries' efforts in improving air quality. Following the recommendation by the Working Group, the Executive Body will be invited to explore possibilities for continuing the initiative and extending it beyond 2021.²

Documentation

Report on communication and outreach activities (informal document No. 6)

5. Review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone

Tentative timing: Monday, 6 December, afternoon, and Tuesday, 7 December, morning

At its thirty-ninth session (Geneva, 9–13 December 2019), the Executive Body decided to initiate the review of the Gothenburg Protocol as amended in 2012.³ At its fortieth session, the Executive Body adopted decision 2020/2 on the plan for undertaking the review of the Protocol to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, pursuant to its article 10 (ECE/EB.AIR/146, annex II). It in particular decided on the scope and the work schedule for the review and requested the subsidiary bodies to undertake to provide and to submit timelines for completion, as well as their inputs as referred to in annex I to the document entitled Preparations for the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2020/3–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2020/3). The Executive Body also requested the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to compile the inputs and information received into an annotated outline for consideration at the fifty-ninth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review; to undertake the policy-related work of the review, including assessing the policy implications of the information received; and to elaborate and prepare the report of the review, including its conclusions.⁴

The Executive Body is invited to take note of the information to be presented by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on the progress in the review process and to

² *ibid.*, para. 36.

³ ECE/EB.AIR/144, para. 27 (e).

⁴ ECE/EB.AIR/146, annex II, decision 2020/2, paras. 1–2 and 4.

consider the initial draft of the report on the review prepared by the Gothenburg Protocol review group.

Documentation

Draft report on the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/4)

6. Financial requirements for implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 December, morning

The secretariat will inform the Executive Body about the status of Parties' contributions to the trust funds for financing implementation of the Convention in 2020–2021 and the expenditures during that period. It will also present resource requirements for the period 2022–2023.

On the recommendation of the Steering Body to the EMEP and the Working Group on Effects, the Executive Body is invited, among other things, to approve: (a) the detailed use of resources for EMEP in 2022; and (b) the essential international coordination costs for financing the core activities of the Convention and its Protocols, other than those covered by the 1984 Geneva Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe; and (c) a revised schedule of mandatory contributions for the period 2022–2023.

Following the change of the host institution of the Programme Centre for the International Cooperative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Ecosystems announced by the delegations of Finland and Sweden at the seventh joint session of the Steering Body for EMEP and the Working Group on Effects and the recommendation by the Working Group on Effects to the Executive Body to amend decision 2002/1 on the financing of core activities (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2021/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2021/2, forthcoming), the Executive Body is expected to adopt an amendment to its decision 2002/1 (ECE/EB.AIR/77/Add.1, annex I).

The Executive Body will also be invited to consider an indicative budget for strengthening the support of the secretariat to the Convention's intergovernmental process, including the review of the Gothenburg Protocol. The Executive Body will be invited to discuss how to raise the additional resources.

Documentation

Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/1)

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/8)

7. Forum for international cooperation on air pollution

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 December, morning

At its thirty-ninth session, the Executive Body adopted decision 2019/5 on the establishment of the forum for international cooperation on air pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/144/Add.1). The Working Group on Strategies and Review at its fifty-ninth session welcomed the willingness of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to lead the work of the forum. The Working Group on Strategies and Review recommended to the Executive Body that the forum be established as a task force reporting to the Working Group.⁵ The Executive Body is invited to consider the draft decision on the mandate for the task force prepared by the lead countries.

⁵ ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/126 (advance version), para. 38.

Documentation

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/8)

8. Draft 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 December, afternoon

The Executive Body will be invited to consider and adopt the draft 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention.

The Executive Body is expected to discuss the calendar of meetings and a provisional list of official documents for 2022–2023, with a view to ensuring the smooth flow of information and results between the scientific and policy bodies in order to facilitate informed policy discussions based on scientific outputs.

Documentation

Draft 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/2)

List of official documents for 2022–2023 meetings (informal document No. 8)

9. Review of the rules of procedure for the Executive Body

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 December, afternoon

At its thirty-ninth session, the Executive Body requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review to discuss possible amendments to the rules of procedure for the Executive Body (as adopted by decision 2010/19 (see ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1) and amended by decision 2013/1 (see ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1)) and to report back to the Executive Body.⁶ The Working Group at its fifty-ninth session recommended to the Executive Body that a comprehensive review of the rules of procedure be undertaken by an ad hoc group of experts and reviewed by the ad hoc legal group. It invited delegations to identify experts to be nominated for such a group of experts.⁷ The Executive Body is invited to consider the proposal of Canada detailing the process for the review of the rules of procedure and to consider convening an ad hoc group of experts.

Documentation

Proposal of Canada on the process for the review of the rules of procedure for the Executive Body (informal document No. 9)

10. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 8 December, morning

At its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 10–14 December 2018), in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure (ECE/EB.AIR/106/Add.1, decision 2010/19, annex, as amended by decision 2013/1 (ECE/EB.AIR/122/Add.1)), the Executive Body re-elected its Chair and its three Vice-Chairs. In accordance with rule 21, it also re-elected the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.⁸ At its thirty-ninth session, the Executive Body elected a replacement for a Vice-Chair of the Executive Body for the remainder of the term.⁹

At its fortieth session, the Executive Body decided, on an exceptional and one-time basis, and notwithstanding rule 17 of the rules of procedure, to defer the elections of the Chair and

⁶ ECE/EB.AIR/144, para. 57 (a).

⁷ ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/126 (advance version), para. 40.

⁸ ECE/EB.AIR/142, para. 76.

⁹ ECE/EB.AIR/144, paras. 58–59.

three Vice-Chairs of the Executive Body and the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to the session of the Executive Body in December 2021.¹⁰

In accordance with rules 17 and 21, the Executive Body is invited to elect a Chair and three Vice-Chairs of the Executive Body and the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. Officers are eligible for re-election but may not serve more than two consecutive terms unless the Executive Body decides otherwise.

11. Other business

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 8 December, morning

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no issues to raise under this agenda item. Parties wishing to propose any other business are invited to contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

12. Adoption of the draft report on the forty-first session

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 8 December, morning

The Chair, with support from the secretariat, will present a record of the main decisions taken at the session, which will form the basis for the draft report.

The Executive Body is invited to review and adopt the draft report on the session and entrust the secretariat to finalize it following the session.

¹⁰ ECE/EB.AIR/146, para. 26.