

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP)

42nd session of the Executive Body (EB 42, 12-16 December 2022, Geneva/hybrid)

Draft Decisions on the Gothenburg Protocol Review

Submission by the EU and its Member States

8 December 2022

The EU and its Member States thank the Air Convention Secretariat for preparing the draft Decision on The review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012.

We would like to provide comments on the draft decision. They are indicated in **bold/underlined** for insertions and ~~striketrough~~ for deletions.

Decision 2022/x

The review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012

The Executive Body,

Recalling its decision 2019/4 on the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, and 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,

Recalling also the objectives of the Protocol, as specified in its article 2, and the long-term strategy for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution for 2020-2030 and beyond (decision 2018/5, annex),

Noting the report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixtieth session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/128),

Welcoming the ~~report~~ **draft report prepared by the Gothenburg Protocol review group** on the review of the Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/3), ~~prepared by the Gothenburg Protocol review group~~, its accompanying documents¹, and the inputs provided by subsidiary bodies to inform the review,

1. *Recognizes* that, despite emission reductions achieved **by Parties** as a result of **introducing** measures ~~Parties to the~~ **address** Protocol ~~have taken towards the~~ Protocol's objectives, adverse effects on human health, ecosystems and materials continue to occur;
2. *Recognizes also* that increased efforts to further reduce emissions are **therefore** required in order to achieve the objectives of the Protocol, ~~including the consideration of the implementation of.~~ **To this end,** new and updated measures ~~and benefitting from~~ **could be considered, including to maximise** synergies with climate and energy policies, ~~and;~~ additional efforts outside the ECE region ~~strengthened~~ **could also be promoted;**

¹ Scientific information for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/4), Technical information for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/5), Review of the flexibility provisions to facilitate ratification and implementation (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/6), **Cost of inaction (ECE/EB.AIR/2022/7)**, Assessment report on ammonia (ECE/EB.AIR/2021/7), Barriers to ratification and implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, and potential solutions (informal document for the forty-second session of the Executive Body), Synergies and interactions with other policy areas (informal document for the sixtieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review), Potential options for addressing methane as an ozone precursor under the Air Convention (informal document for the sixtieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review), TFTEI background informal technical document for the review of the Gothenburg Protocol for industrial processes (informal document for the sixtieth session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review), Non-technical and structural measures (informal document for the forty-first session of the Executive Body), Outcomes of the informal meeting of the Heads of Delegations to the Working Group on Strategies and Review (informal document for the forty-second session of the Executive Body), **Considerations for ammonia relevant to future review of the Gothenburg Protocol and Draft guidance document on prioritizing reductions of particulate matter so as to also achieve reduction of black carbon (informal documents for the fifty-eight session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review)**.

3. *Acknowledges* the need for more Parties to the Convention to ratify and implement the Protocol to increase its effectiveness;
4. *Notes* that, in addition to ~~control measures to reduce~~**reduced** emissions of nitrogen oxides, volatile organic pollutants and methane ~~in~~**within** the ECE region, **also** global methane reductions, ~~in addition to those within the ECE region,~~ are needed to reduce ground-level ozone in the ECE region;
5. *Decides* that the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, is completed and adopts the final report on the review contained in the annex to the present decision;
6. **Requests the subsidiary bodies to make appropriate proposals for the development of the 2024-2025 workplan in response to the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012;**
7. ~~Recognizes~~ the need to **further** address the conclusions and next steps outlined in the review report and requests the Working Group on Strategies and Review to continue discussions, ~~to~~ develop options for next steps and make recommendations on appropriate policy responses; ~~[at the 43rd session of the Executive Body in December 2023;]~~
7. ~~Requests~~ the subsidiary bodies to make appropriate proposals for the development of the 2024-2025 workplan in response to the conclusions of review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012;
8. *Decides* that an ad hoc group of experts, **should be** convened **as soon as possible** by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. **A time plan and deliverables for the work of this ad hoc group until the 43rd session of the Executive Body should be decided by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Working Group on Strategies and Review. The tasks of the ad hoc group will include:**
 - (a) ~~develops~~**development of** a document proposing possible options to address the conclusions of the review, including ~~whether revisions are needed, and~~**the option of a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 and options for the technical annexes, and including** recommendations for next steps and future work;
 - (b) ~~shares~~**sharing** the initial draft as an informal document with the Working Group on Strategies and Review ~~at its sixty first session, where delegations will have a chance to provide~~**for possible** comments;
 - (c) further ~~elaborates~~**elaborating** the document **taking due consideration of the comments received.** ~~and presents its second draft as a formal document to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its session planned for September 2023; [at the 43rd session of the Executive Body in December 2023, with the aim to finalize this document in time for submission to the Working Group on Strategies and Review at session in Spring 2024;]~~
9. *Invites* Parties to the Convention to ~~designate~~**nominate** experts, notably those with experience in the work of the Convention, to participate in this group, by providing their names and contact information to the secretariat by 23 December 2022;
10. *Requests* the ~~Working Group on Strategies and Review~~**ad hoc group** to present its **document on options and** recommendations to the Executive Body at its forty-third session.