

Programme of the thematic session on barriers towards ratification and implementation of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012

13 December, Geneva

Objective is to further discuss barriers and solutions to overcome them, and produce initial key findings/messages for consideration by the Executive Body at its 42nd session.

This discussion goes beyond the context of the review of the amended Gothenburg Protocol and expected to continue over the next years.

The thematic session will be held on Tuesday 13 December. On Monday 12 December, the first day of the 42nd session of the Executive Body, the following latest and relevant information will be shared in preparation for the thematic session:

- *Update from the Secretariat on capacity building, awareness raising and cooperation; [including the Secretariat's perspective? Lessons learned? What can be improved? ...];*
- *Report by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on the outcome of the meeting of the Heads of Delegations from 27 to 30 September 2022 in The Hague, the Netherlands, including in particular on the preliminary discussions on flexibilities and barriers in the context of the review of the amended Gothenburg Protocol.*

A list of guiding questions was circulated in mid-October to current non-parties to the amended Gothenburg Protocol (EECCA countries, Western Balkan countries and Türkiye) to facilitate the discussions on barriers to ratification and solutions to overcome them during the thematic session.

Some non-Parties offered to present their national perspectives during the second block of the session.

First block: 13 December 2022: 11 am -1 pm

- 11:00 - 11:15 Welcome and introduction (by chair(s) of the session)
- Introducing the agenda (*can already be shared on Monday*), practicalities
 - Goals and objectives of the session
- 11:15 - 11:45 Setting the scene (by GPG)
- Presentation of the flexibility document and the informal document on barriers and solutions to overcome them
 - Questions and answers
- 11:45 - 12:05 Feedback from TFTEI (6-7 October 2022, Rome)
- On the preparatory meeting on barriers at the TFTEI informal session;
 - On the case study conducted on 4 EECCA countries (technical gaps analysis).
- 12:05 - 12:25 Feedback from TFICAP (11-12 October 2022, Bristol)
- On relevant information of the TFICAP meeting;
 - Including on its relevance or potential role in contributing to removing barriers.
- 12:25 - 12:45 Feedback on the responses to the guiding questions that were circulated in advance of the thematic session (by GPG)

12:45 - 01:00 Introduction to the e-learning course on the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention) (by the Secretariat)

Second block: 13 December 2022: 3 - 5 pm

03:00 - 04:40 National perspectives of several non-Parties

- On key problems, barriers, gaps, needs, etc.;
- On possible solutions to overcome the barriers.

Armenia (03:00 - 03:20)

North Macedonia (03:20 - 03:40)

Republic of Moldova (03:40 - 04:00)

Serbia (04:00 - 04:20)

Türkiye (04:20 - 04:40)

04:40 - 05:00 Final questions, conclusions, key messages for reporting to EB (by chair(s) of the session)