

Reporting on option development to address the conclusions of the Review of the Gothenburg Protocol from the 61st Working Group on Strategies & Review

Lead by the WGSR Vice Chairs on behalf of Chair Till Spranger:

- Dominique Pritula,
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Expert Group on Policy Options Development

- Following decision 2022/4 (ECE/EB.AIR/150) the 42nd Executive Body decided to conclude the review of the Gothenburg Protocol (ECE/EB.AIR/150/Add.2) and create an expert group to develop options to address the conclusions of the review.
- The group of 11 experts from Parties to the Convention met several times (online and in-person) in 2023 and developed a draft report (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/9) which was submitted to 61st Working Group on Strategies and Review for consideration (after some comment rounds prior from Parties). An additional revised version of the draft report (reflecting further comments from Parties) was presented to the Working Group as well as other supporting informal documents.
- Parties discussed the report, and concluded that it was useful in supporting discussions on choosing the best way forward to address the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol.
- Parties requested some clarifications from the Expert Group be made before the document was submitted to the Executive Body and agreed to forward the document to the Executive Body alongside the recommendations in the Working Group report.
- To support these discussions, the Executive Body Chair introduced an informal document containing text of a draft EB decision for delegates to consider. Some informal comments were forwarded to the EB Chair for consideration.

Brainstorming activities with non-Parties to the Protocol

- In addition to the activities of the Expert Group, Peter Meleupas conducted brainstorming sessions with non-Parties to the protocol and individual interviews in the margins of the WGSR on the status, barriers, issues, non-Parties to the protocol experience in relation to the Protocol
- These findings were presented during the Working Group as an informal presentation alongside the findings of the Expert Group, to give all Parties information on how to address the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol

Recommendations of the Working Group:

- The Working Group concluded that there was significant support for a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, including the text and technical annexes – as the path forward for addressing the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol
- The Working Group recommended to the 43rd Executive Body that it launch a process for revising the Gothenburg Protocol. See report ([ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/130](#))
- Following the Working Group meeting, the Expert Group submitted a revised report on options to address the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol: ([ECE/EB.AIR/2023/9](#))
- Alongside this, the EB Chair committed to taking into consideration the views expressed at the meeting of the Working Group and the EB Bureau when revising the draft EB decision on the path forward after the review of the Gothenburg Protocol in preparation for EB43.
- The revised draft decision was submitted by the EB Chair and WGSR Chair for discussion at this Executive Body (Decision V - [ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4](#))