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Economic Commission for Europe

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

Forty-third session

Geneva, 11–14 December 2023
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the forty-third session*

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on
Monday, 11 December 2023**

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on credentials.
3. Review of the implementation of the 2022–2023 workplan:
 - (a) Science;
 - (b) Policy;
 - (c) Compliance;
 - (d) Capacity-building and awareness-raising to promote ratification and implementation;
 - (e) Communication, outreach and cooperation.
5. Mandate of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.
6. Policy options to address the conclusions of the review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012.
7. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention.

* Delegates attending the meeting are requested to register online, **by 10 November 2023**, through the relevant link, which is available on the meeting web page: <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Air-Pollution/events/371557>. There are accreditation procedures for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. A map of the Palais des Nations is available on the United Nations Office at Geneva website: www.ungeneva.org/en/about/practical-information/map. 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.

8. Draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention.
9. Review of the rules of procedure for the sessions of the Executive Body.
10. Election of officers.
11. Other business.
12. Adoption of the draft report on the forty-third session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 December, afternoon

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

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the forty-third session (ECE/EB.AIR/152)

2. Report on credentials

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 December, afternoon

Delegations will be invited to submit their credentials to the secretariat during the session, in accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure for the sessions of the Executive Body as adopted by decision 2010/19 and amended by decision 2013/1.¹ 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.

3. Review of the implementation of the 2022–2023 workplan

Tentative timing: Monday, 11 December, afternoon, and Tuesday, 12 December, morning

The Executive Body is expected to review the implementation of the 2022–2023 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/148/Add.1).

(a) Science

Considering the main outcomes, conclusions and recommendations of the ninth 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, 11–15 September 2023), the Executive Body will be invited to take note of the progress in the implementation of section I of the workplan (science).

France has expressed its willingness to take over the co-leadership of the Task Force on Integrated Assessment Modelling from the Netherlands as of 2024. Poland has expressed its willingness to take over the co-leadership of the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling from France as of 2024. The Executive Body is invited to reflect the changes in the Task Forces' leadership in their mandates.

Documentation

Report of the ninth 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

¹ All Executive Body decisions referred to in the present document are available at <https://unece.org/decisions>.

the Working Group on Effects (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/2, advance version)

(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 sixty-first session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 4–6 September 2023).

The Executive Body will be also invited to consider and adopt the following documents forwarded to it by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its sixty-first session:

(a) Draft guidance document on technical measures for reduction of methane emissions from landfill, the natural gas grid and biogas facilities;

(b) Draft guidance document on technical measures for reduction of air pollutant emissions from shipping;

(c) Co-mitigation of methane and ammonia emissions from agricultural sources.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/130, advance version)

Co-mitigation of methane and ammonia emissions from agricultural sources (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/5)

Draft guidance document on technical measures for reduction of methane emissions from landfill, the natural gas grid and biogas facilities (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/6)

Draft guidance document on technical measures for reduction of air pollutant emissions from shipping (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/7)

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4)

(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-sixth report of the Implementation Committee, prepared based on the outcomes of the fiftieth session of the Committee (Geneva (online), 5–7 July 2023).

The Executive Body is expected to consider the proposal prepared by the Executive Body Bureau on revision of the mandate of the Implementation Committee in accordance with workplan item 3.5.

Documentation

Twenty-sixth report of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/3)

Compliance with reporting obligations (informal document No. 1)

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4)

(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 report of the secretariat.

Documentation

Report of the secretariat on capacity-building and awareness-raising activities to promote ratification and implementation (informal document No. 2)

(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.

Documentation

Report on communication and outreach activities (informal document No. 3)

5. Mandate of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, morning

At its forty-second session (Geneva, 12–16 December 2022), the Executive Body requested its Bureau to review the mandate of the Coordinating Group on the promotion of actions towards implementation of the Convention in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Coordinating Group), including its scope and composition, and to report to the Executive Body at its forty-third session.² A member of the Executive Body Bureau will inform the Executive Body about the outcome of the Bureau's deliberations on this issue.

6. Policy options to address the conclusions of the review of sufficiency and effectiveness of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 12 December, morning and afternoon

The Executive Body concluded the review of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone (the Gothenburg Protocol), as amended in 2012, at its forty-second session. The Executive Body decided that an ad hoc group of experts should be convened by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review to develop policy options to address the conclusions of the review, including consideration of the option of a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, and options for addressing conclusions related to the technical annexes, and including recommendations for next steps and future work.³ At its sixty-first session, the Working Group on Strategies and Review concluded that there was significant support for a revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, including the text and annexes, as the path forward for addressing the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012, with due consideration to removing barriers to ratification and implementation, in combination with enhancing capacity-building and outreach activities. The Working Group recommended to the Executive Body that it launch a process for revising the Gothenburg Protocol at its forty-third session. The Executive Body is invited to consider the options outlined by the ad hoc group of experts and the recommendations of the Working Group on Strategies and Review made at its sixty-first session, as well as to decide on appropriate action to address the conclusions of the review (ECE/EB.AIR/150, annex I, decision 2022/4).

Documentation

Options to address the conclusions of the review of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/9)

Summary tables for the policy options document (informal document No. 4)

² ECE/EB.AIR/150, para. 24 (f).

³ *ibid.*, para. 9 (a).

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixty-first session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/130, advance version)

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4)

7. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 13 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 the period 2022–2023 and the expenditures during that period. It will also present resource requirements for the period 2024–2025.

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 2024; 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 (EMEP Protocol); and (c) a revised schedule of mandatory contributions for 2024.

The Executive Body is also invited to consider recommendations of the EMEP Steering Body concerning the potential reorganization and relocation of the activities implemented by the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East as requested by the Executive Body at its forty-second session.⁴

The Executive Body is further invited, taking into account the resource requirements related to the secretariat's support to intergovernmental activities under the Convention, to consider and approve the proposed budget for the period 2024–2025 and to agree on the corresponding list of priority activities of the secretariat.

The Executive Body is furthermore invited to adopt the proposed budget for promotion and implementation of the Convention in the period 2024–2025 to implement activities listed in sections IV–V of the draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/1).

Documentation

Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/2)

Reorganization and relocation of the Meteorological Synthesizing Centre-East activities: review of the options by the Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (ECE/EB.AIR/GE.1/2023/7–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2023/7)

Additional information on resource requirements for secretariat support (informal document No. 5)

8. Draft 2024-2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 13 December, afternoon, and Thursday, 14 December, morning

The Executive Body will be invited to consider and adopt the 2024–2025 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 the period 2024–2025, with a view to ensuring the smooth flow of

⁴ *ibid.*, para. 37 (c).

information and results between the scientific and policy bodies in order to facilitate informed policy discussions based on scientific outputs.

Documentation

Draft 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/1)

List of official documents for 2024–2025 meetings (informal document No. 6)

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December, morning

At its forty-first session, the Executive Body adopted decision 2021/6 on review of the rules of procedure for the sessions of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution as adopted by decision 2010/19 and amended by decision 2013/1. With this decision, the Executive Body tasked the ad hoc group of experts, convened by the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review, with undertaking this review and with presenting its final recommendations at the forty-third session of the Executive Body. It requested the ad hoc group of legal experts to undertake a legal assessment of any recommendations for revisions proposed by the ad hoc group of experts.⁵ At its sixty-first session, the Working Group on Strategies and Review recommended that the Executive Body at its forty-third session consider the report on the review in conjunction with the legal assessment and inputs by Parties, with a view to concluding consideration in 2024 and for the Working Group to make recommendations to the Executive Body at its forty-fourth session. The Executive Body is invited to consider the results of the review and the legal assessment and to decide on the way forward.

Documentation

Report on the review of the rules of procedure (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/8)

Legal assessment of the proposed revisions (informal document No. 7)

10. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December, morning

At its forty-first session (Geneva, 6–8 December 2021), in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the Executive Body elected two of its Vice-Chairs and re-elected one Vice-Chair. In accordance with rule 21, it also elected the Chair of the Working Group on Strategies and Review.⁶

In accordance with rules 17 and 21, the Executive Body is invited to elect 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: Thursday, 14 December, afternoon

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.

⁵ Decision 2021/6, paras. 2 and 6–7.

⁶ ECE/EB.AIR/148, para. 45.

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 14 December, afternoon

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.
