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Economic Commission for Europe

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

Forty-fourth session

Geneva, 9–12 December 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session*

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 3 p.m. on
Monday, 9 December 2024

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on credentials.
3. Status of ratification of the Convention and its protocols.
4. Review of the implementation of the 2024–2025 workplan:
 - (a) Science;
 - (b) Policy;
 - (c) Compliance;
 - (d) Capacity-building to promote ratification and implementation;
 - (e) Communication, awareness-raising, outreach and cooperation.
5. Revision of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012.
6. Revision of the mandate of and operational rules for the Implementation Committee.
7. Review of the rules of procedure for the sessions of the Executive Body.
8. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention.

* Delegates attending the meeting are requested to register online, **by 10 November 2024**, through the relevant link, which is available on the meeting web page: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/386758>. 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.



9. Election of officers.
10. Other business.
11. Adoption of the draft report on the forty-fourth session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 9 December, afternoon

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

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session (ECE/EB.AIR/155)

2. Report on credentials

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 11 December, morning

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. Status of ratification of the Convention and its protocols

Tentative timing: Monday, 9 December, afternoon

The secretariat will provide an overview of the status of ratification of the Convention and its protocols. The Executive Body is invited to take note of the information.

Documentation

Overview of the status of ratification (informal document No. 3)

4. Review of the implementation of the 2024–2025 workplan

Tentative timing: Monday, 9 December, afternoon, and Tuesday, 10 December, morning

The Executive Body is expected to review the implementation of the 2024–2025 workplan for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/154/Add.1).

(a) Science

Considering the main outcomes, conclusions and recommendations of the tenth 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, 9–13 September 2024), the Executive Body will be invited to take note of the progress in the implementation of section I of the workplan (science).

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

Documentation

Report of the tenth 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.1/2024/2–ECE/EB.AIR/WG.1/2024/2, 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) not related to the revision of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012 (Gothenburg Protocol) and of the outcomes of the sixty-second session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (Geneva, 27–31 May 2024). Items related to the revision will be discussed under agenda item 4. In view of the Executive Body's decision to evaluate the effectiveness of decision 2013/2 after the entry into force of the amendments to the three most recent protocols,² the Executive Body will also be invited to discuss possible changes in the future reporting on strategies and policies in line with the Convention and its protocols.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixty-second session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/132)

(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-seventh report of the Implementation Committee, prepared based on the outcomes of the fifty-first session of the Committee (Geneva (hybrid), 3–5 September 2024).

At its forty-second session (Geneva, 12–16 December 2022), the Executive Body elected four members of the Implementation Committee and re-elected two members for a second term, two members for a fourth term and one member for a sixth term.³ The Executive Body is therefore invited to elect nine members of the Implementation Committee and to elect its Chair from among those members.

Documentation

Twenty-seventh report of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/2)

Compliance with reporting obligations (informal document No. 4)

(d) Capacity-building 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 to promote ratification and implementation), as contained in the report of the secretariat.

Documentation

Report of the secretariat on capacity-building activities to promote ratification and implementation (informal document No. 1)

(e) Communication, awareness-raising, 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, awareness-raising, outreach and cooperation), as contained in the report of the secretariat. The Executive Body will be invited to take note of

² Decision 2016/3, para. 6.

³ ECE/EB.AIR/150, para. 20 (b)–(c).

the information provided. The Executive Body will also hear views from other international organizations.

Documentation

Report on communication and outreach activities (informal document No. 2)

5. Revision of the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 10 December, morning and afternoon, Wednesday, 11 December, morning and afternoon

At its forty-third session (Geneva, 11–14 December 2023), the Executive Body adopted decision 2023/5 launching a process to revise the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, as amended in 2012, and to address other conclusions of its review. In paragraph 5 of that decision, the Executive Body requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review to develop a plan, including timelines, to guide its work in revising the Protocol based on a draft plan developed by the Chair of the Working Group, as well as views submitted by Parties. A draft plan for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2024/1), was prepared by the Bureau of the Working Group and was amended and agreed by the Working Group at its sixty-second session (Geneva, 27–31 May 2024). It identifies the work and activities ongoing or required to enable Parties to make decisions on various aspects of the negotiations. It sets out a tentative timeline for conducting the negotiations within the time frame defined in Executive Body decision 2023/5. It also provides recommendations on the path forward for the negotiations. The Executive Body is invited to discuss and adopt the plan (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/5). The Executive Body is further invited to discuss substantive issues as referenced in the above-mentioned plan taking into account the informal Co-Chairs' report from the informal delegates meeting (Leuven, Belgium, 21–24 October 2024).

Documentation

Draft plan for the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol, as amended in 2012 (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/5)

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixty-second session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/132)

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/3)

Informal Co-Chairs' report from the informal delegates meeting in Leuven, Belgium (informal document No. 5)

6. Revision of the mandate of and operational rules for the Implementation Committee

Tentative Timing: Wednesday, 11 December, afternoon

At its forty-third session, the Executive Body postponed the consideration and potential adoption of the proposed "Revised procedures for the Implementation Committee"⁴ until the Executive Body's forty-fourth session. In the meantime, it requested the Implementation Committee to draft, in consultation with the secretariat, operational rules for presentation at the forty-fourth session.⁵ It also requested a tracked changes version of the revised procedures, a clear rationale for the proposed changes, and a review of the proposed revised procedures as contained in the annex to section IV of ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4 as well as the

⁴ See ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4, sect. IV.

⁵ ECE/EB.AIR/2023/154, para. 25 (b)–(c).

proposed operational rules of the Implementation Committee by the ad hoc group of legal experts.⁶ The Executive Body is now expected to consider:

(a) The legal experts' review of the revised procedures as presented at the forty-third session and contained in ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4, as well as the draft operational rules as submitted to the experts in May 2024;⁷

(b) The rationale for the proposed changes⁸ and the updated proposal prepared by the Executive Body Bureau, with support from the secretariat, on the revision of the mandate of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/3, section III), which already takes into account the legal experts' advice;

(c) An additional note prepared by the Executive Body Bureau to improve the efficiency of case referrals, available as an informal document;

(d) The draft operational rules for the Implementation Committee prepared by the Committee with support from the secretariat (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/3, section III), which already take into account the results of the legal experts' review.

The Executive Body may wish to consider the updated proposal for revised procedures of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/3, section III) and the proposal for operational rules of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/3, section III) for adoption, while taking into account the explanations provided in document ECE/EB.AIR/2024/6 and the Executive Body Bureau's note on the efficiency of case referrals.

Documentation

Twenty-seventh report of the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/2)

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/3)

Revised procedures and draft operational rules for the Implementation Committee (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/6)

Report of the ad hoc group of legal experts on the proposed revised procedures and operational rules for the Implementation Committee (informal document No. 6)

Tracked changes document comparing the annex to decision 2012/25 on improving the functioning of the Implementation Committee (current mandate) and the annex to the draft decision on revised procedures for the Implementation Committee, as contained in ECE/EB.AIR/2023/4 (proposed 2023 draft mandate) (informal document No. 7)

Review of the mandate of the Implementation Committee - Note by the Executive Body Bureau (informal document No. 8)

Improving the efficiency of case referrals - Note by the Executive Body Bureau (informal document No. 9)

Draft of operational rules for the Implementation Committee of the Air Convention (as submitted to the legal experts in May 2024) (informal document No. 10)

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 12 December, morning

At its forty-first session (Geneva, 6–8 December 2021), 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

⁶ *ibid.*, para. 25 (d)–(e).

⁷ The tracked changes version of the revised procedures in comparison to the current procedures, the draft operational rules as submitted to the experts and the experts' review are available as informal documents on the website of the session: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/386758>.

⁸ Available as an informal document on the session website.

amended by decision 2013/1. The ad hoc group of experts, tasked with undertaking this review, presented its report to the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2023/8) at its forty-third session. At the same session, the ad hoc group of legal experts presented the results of the legal assessment of the recommendations made by the rules of procedure review group.⁹ As per the Executive Body's request,¹⁰ the ad hoc group of experts, established by decision 2021/6, in cooperation with the ad hoc group of legal experts, proposed potential amendments to the rules of procedure for consideration by the Working Group on Strategies and Review at its sixty-second session. As a result, the Working Group forwarded potential amendments to the rules of procedure to the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/3) and it is invited to consider and adopt the revised rules of procedure at its forty-fourth session.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Strategies and Review on its sixty-second session (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/132)

Revision of the rules of procedure (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/4)

8. Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Thursday, 12 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 2023–2024 and the expenditures during that period. It will also present resource requirements for the period 2025–2026.

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 2025;
- (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 2025.

The Executive Body is also 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 2025–2026 and to agree on the corresponding list of priority activities of the secretariat.

Documentation

Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/1)

Additional information on resource requirements for secretariat support (informal document No. 11)

Draft decisions of the Executive Body (ECE/EB.AIR/2024/3)

9. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Thursday, 12 December, morning

At its forty-second session, the Executive Body elected Ms. Kimber Scavo (United States of America) as its Chair.¹¹ In accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the Executive

⁹ ECE/EB.AIR/154, para. 54.

¹⁰ *ibid.*, para. 57 (a) and (c).

¹¹ ECE/EB.AIR/150, para. 48.

Body is invited to elect its Chair. Officers are eligible for re-election but may not serve more than two consecutive terms unless the Executive Body decides otherwise.

10. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 12 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.

11. Adoption of the draft report on the forty-fourth session

Tentative timing: Thursday, 12 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.
