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### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP):  
55th Session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR 55)  
(Geneva, 31 May - 2 June 2017)  
- Compilation of statements by the EU and its Member States

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Delegations will find in the Annex, for information, a compilation of agreed statements as delivered at the abovementioned meeting on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

**Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution**  
**55th session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR 55)**  
**(Geneva, 31 May - 2 June 2017)**

**- Compilation of statements by the EU and its Member States -**

**Agenda item 4: Policy response to the 2016 scientific assessment of the Convention**

– On the **general approach**:

The EU and its Member States greatly appreciate the very comprehensive analysis of the Ad hoc group. It is a major effort that has not been done since we agreed on the Long Term Strategy from 2010. We also appreciate that the group has reviewed the items of the workplan and made recommendations of future activities in the short and longer term. The proposed structure of the recommendations is also very useful when engaging in a discussion on priorities for future work.

The future of the Convention remains a high priority for the EU and its Member States, in particular its role in addressing air pollution in the wider UNECE area, the technical and science work of the EMEP and WGE and the technical guidance for emission inventories, the BAT guidance for economic sectors and for outreach to other regions and organisations/MEAs. We are therefore keen to discuss the recommendations in relation to the short and longer term as proposed by the Ad hoc group.

The list of proposed recommendations is very long and it is likely that we cannot agree on everything at this meeting. It seems sensible to have a staged approach and that we discuss some key recommendations with relevance for the short term, primarily those related directly or indirectly to the WGSR workplan for 2018/19 and that we revert to recommendations for longer term and strategic issues when discussing the revision of the Convention Long-Term Strategy for the EB, starting in December 2017. Specifically, if we are recommending strengthening or opening new strategic lines of work under the Convention, we believe that such recommendations should be discussed with considerations of available resources, which are limited and not always sufficient.

The recommendations summarized in the final chapter of Policy Review Group report are generally supported by the EU and its Member States, in particular those that lead to better implementation of the Convention and its protocols. We also support the recommendations that contribute to the technical and scientific basis that maintain the Convention's scientific leadership role. This is in particular the case for the recommendations on the ratification of the three latest amended protocols and the improvement of emission inventories and projections, followed by integrated policy approaches and pursuing further emission reductions. We therefore expect that these recommendations are reflected in the 2018-2019 workplan in an adequate manner.

With regard to the Long Term Strategy, the EU and its Member States propose that the WGSR recommends the EB to provide guidance to the Ad hoc Policy Review Group to also develop proposals for text to take into consideration in the revision of the LTS. The proposed text should be based on the outcome of the discussion of these recommendations at EB37 and be presented to WGSR56 and EB38 in 2018 for discussion and possible adoption.

Both the Long Term Strategy and the Policy Review Group reports point out the importance of attracting more ratifications of the latest three Protocols, as amended and specifically by countries in the EECCA and SEE regions. This would require that the 2009 and 2012 amendments are ratified as soon as possible thus allowing new Parties to use the flexibility set out in the Flexibility arrangements of the 2012 amendments to the HM and the Gothenburg Protocols. This remains an important priority for the EU. The EU ratified both the Heavy Metals and POPs protocols in June 2016, and some EU Member States have done so as well. The EU and many Member States are also in the process of ratifying the revised Gothenburg Protocol.

– On the **recommendations in relation to the activities of the WGSR:**

Again, the EU and its Member States greatly appreciate the report of the Ad hoc group. All the recommendations are relevant and nothing has been excluded at this stage. We believe that our deliberations would have to find the right balance between the short and the longer term and the strategic issues that would have to be further discussed in the near future. In fact, a number of recommended actions are already present in the work programme, and those addressed to the parties do not need additional resources. Other recommendations would have to be considered in relation to priorities and available resources of the Convention.

We agree with the Ad Hoc group that we should be guided in setting the "short and longer term" priorities in relation to the "basic obligations" of the Convention and priorities set out in the present LTS. We therefore agree with the conclusion in Section III of the Ad hoc group report and what should be the focus of future work.

As previously mentioned, we have focused initially on the key recommendations with relevance for the short term and the 2018/19 workplan. We have the following specific comments on these points:

- On the recommendations on "**Enabling sound decisions**":

Many of the recommendations are related to the scientific work of the Convention as a basis for improved policies. The EU and its Member States agree to the need to increase focus on certain pollutants (e.g., ozone, black carbon and ammonia), and for integrating air pollution policy with other policies (e.g., nitrogen and climate change). Some matters are not covered by corresponding present policy under the Convention, such as on methane. Scientific work may nevertheless be pursued in the short and longer term on such matters. There is clear evidence that ozone concentrations in the UNECE area are strongly influenced by methane emissions from other Northern hemisphere regions. Cooperation with other organisations dealing with these science issues is therefore encouraged, but this work should be framed by a “steer” from the EB setting out the policy need for international cooperation on methane reductions.. The inter-linkages between air pollution and other policy areas, such as biodiversity and climate change are important and should be highlighted both in the science and policy groups.

- With regard to the recommendations on **maximizing the impact of the "Convention and its protocols"**:

The ratifications of the latest three protocols remain a top priority for the EU. Updating of guidance documents and other technical guidance should be prioritized to assist the Parties in implementing the protocols. Likely there is a need in the future to further develop the BAT and its application by the Parties. It would at this stage be too early to review and revise/update the latest three protocols. That should be specifically addressed once we have the amendments in force and once we have gained experience in how the provisions work in reality.

However, considering that the Protocols may come into force within the next year, we believe that scientific work in the relevant areas should be pursued already in 2018/2019 workplan.

- With regard to the recommendations on "**Improving the technical and scientific basis**":

The recommendations of the Ad hoc group can be supported, they should be dealt with in detail by WGE and EMEP SB. Many of the recommendations highlight and reinforce activities that are already a priority of the work plan and/or the long-term strategies of EMEP and WGE. Some recommendations relate to reorganization or refocus of work. For some of the remaining new issues, the challenge is how to prioritise these tasks in the light of available resources. There is also a need to define how the extended science and technical basis would be related to the policy need of the Parties, for instance in relation to international shipping and on methane. The proposal for continuing the close cooperation between the EMEP and WGE is strongly encouraged. We also agree that a functional, multi-purpose monitoring and assessment system is needed to be able to check efficiency and sufficiency of control measures.

The EU and its Member States are also mindful that encouraging ratification of existing protocols is a high priority for the Convention. Recommendation 66 (mandatory reporting of black carbon inventories, in the Short Term) could create an additional barrier and be inconsistent with this aim. In this light, it may be more appropriate for this to be considered in the longer term rather than as a short term priority. The EU and its Member States believe that work should still be continued to improve the definition of black carbon, in cooperation with other international organizations (Arctic Council, CCAC).

– **With regard to the recommendations on "Improving communication, outreach and cooperation":**

The recommendations of the Ad hoc group can be supported. In particular the EU and its Member States support the activities to reach out to the public (as outlined in no 98, 99 and 103), communication to policy makers and information exchange with other organisations (e.g. UNEP, WHO, CCAC, SC, MC). In the short term we would have to join existing processes in other organisations, such as the UNEA3 tabled discussion on the "pollution" theme but in the longer term also creating synergies with other processes such as the implementation of the WHO roadmap on improvements on air quality (flowing from the WHA 2015 resolution) and the UNEA1/7 Decision on air pollution.

– **On further guidance to the Ad hoc group for the review of the LTS:**

The EU and its Member States believe that the priorities set out in the LTS are still valid for our work. In particular the next few years we would set high priorities in getting more parties to the latest three protocols as amended and that they enter into force. That will also allow the new parties to make use of the flexibilities set out in the 2012 amendments to the HM protocol and the Gothenburg protocol.

Work under the CLRTAP has links with many other policy areas and international agreements, such as UNFCCC and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Stockholm Convention and the Minamata Convention. The LTS may be further refined in its priorities on work related to climate change, such as on black carbon and methane, and on POPs and HM, notably on Hg.

Reviews and revisions of the current protocols should be only considered when these are in force and when there is a broad participation across the Convention area. We therefore believe a revision of the LTS should reflect the balance between the need for entry into force of the current protocols with broad support of all CLRTAP parties and future needs for revisions of the protocols.

## **Agenda item 6: Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention**

**(a) Template for the submission of examples of good practices with regard to strategies, policies and measures**

The EU and its Member States suggest improving the template for the submission of examples of and good practices. We suggest that two additional items are included in the template as follows:

“Protocol(s)/pollutant(s): Please indicate the protocol(s) for which the strategy, policy or measure contributes in achieving its (their) basic obligations and the pollutants it addresses.

Method of analysis: Please describe the method of analysis used – if any – to identify/evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy, policy or measure (partially overlapping with a box ‘description of the strategy, policy or measure’.”

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