



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 6 July 2017  
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**2013/0448 (NLE)**

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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	7997/1/17 ENV 336 ENER 131 IND 80 TRANS 138 ENT 93 SAN 139 REV 1 + REV 1 ADD 1
No. Cion doc.:	18165/13 ENV 1234 ENER 599 IND 387 TRANS 692 ENT 355 SAN 553 - COM(2013) 917 final + ADD 1
Subject:	Draft Council Decision on the acceptance of the Amendment to the 1999 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone - Adoption

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**Statement by Denmark**

Transboundary air pollution is a problem that affects us all and has great socio-economic consequences. Denmark has over the last 40 years had a strong focus on the reduction of air pollution. Denmark is fully committed to improving air quality across the European Union and in that regard Denmark supports the purpose of the revised Gothenburg Protocol.

The Danish agricultural sector is governed by a very comprehensive national environmental legislation that includes use of advanced technologies. Denmark has at an early point initiated important efforts to reduce ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector.

Furthermore, for many years Denmark had higher requirements for the reduction of ammonia than many other Member States. Danish agriculture has thus consistently over the years delivered higher reductions than other Member States.

Against this background Denmark finds that the Gothenburg Protocol reduction target for Denmark on ammonia on 24 % by 2020 compared to 2005 is highly unfair. In regards to ammonia, Denmark must reduce disproportionately more than our neighbours. This is the reason why Denmark in 2016 voted against the adoption of the National Emission Ceilings Directive containing the same reduction target.

Denmark believes that EU ratification of protocols and conventions should be based on fair burden-sharing in the EU. This is not the case for the reduction targets for especially ammonia.

Consequently, Denmark will vote against the Council Decision on the acceptance of the revised Gothenburg Protocol on behalf of the Union.

However, Denmark intends to remain loyal to the EU ambition in this regard and Denmark therefore intends to accept the protocol on behalf of Denmark.