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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP): 33rd
session of the Executive Body (EB 33) (Geneva, 8-12 December 2014)
- Final statements

Delegations will find in Annex, for information, a compilation of the agreed statements as delivered by the Presidency and the Commission at the abovementioned 33rd session of the Executive Body.

**Statements delivered by the Presidency and the Commission at EB 33
(Geneva, 8-12 December 2014)****on behalf of the EU and its Member States****Agenda item 5(a)****Assessment report on the Implementation of the Convention**

The EU and its Member States welcome the report from the Chair of the Working Group on Effects on the preparation of an updated outline for the 2016 Assessment Report. We believe that the 2016 Assessment Report will be a useful tool to recognise the important contribution of the Convention in reducing long-range transboundary air pollution and improving air quality and highlight future challenges and emerging problems.

In order to make the best use of limited resources and ensure the report has maximum impact, it is important that the report has a clear structure and focus. Wherever possible, the report should make use of existing reports and material developed by CLRTAP and should focus on defining future challenges for the Convention [and where appropriate and possible, beyond the UNECE region]. We are keen to work with others to prioritise the policy questions to be covered in Part I of the Assessment Report in order to achieve this.

We support the inclusion of heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the scope of the report and consider that the report should specifically cover the needs and priorities of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA).

The EU and its Member States welcome the ideas from EMEP SB/WGE on the practical process for drafting the report. We would like to emphasise that the drafting of the Assessment Report should be a joint effort between science experts and policy makers. Policy makers therefore need to be involved in the drafting from the outset. In particular, policy makers should be encouraged to attend the drafting workshop(s) suggested for early next year. This approach of involving both science experts and policy makers in the preparation of the assessment report is as such reflected in EB's workplan 2014-2015 where all three main subsidiary bodies (EMEP SB, WGE and WGSR) were listed as lead bodies to fulfil this task. So, the EB at its 33th session should provide indication and recommendation on the involvement of the WGSR in such a drafting exercise.

Adjustments to emission reduction commitments and inventories

The EU and its MS fully support the conclusions and recommendations from the EMEP Steering Body, including the approval of the concluded reviews. We recognize that additional guidance is needed to improve the process for reviews and to ensure applications are considered in a fair, timely and transparent way. We welcome the report prepared by the TFEIP chairs and are committed to facilitate an agreement on additional guidance at this session.

To this end, we have prepared a room paper setting out some proposed amendments to EB decision 2012 for discussion with the EB alongside. We propose that the chair set up a contact group to consider as a basis for the discussion this paper, together with the new report (outlined in informal document 6) prepared by the chairs of the TFEIP on additional guidance for adjustment applications. We would be happy to participate in such a contact group.

We also agree that the issue of insufficient support to the adjustment review process (experts, funding) needs to be resolved and we are open for suggestions from other Parties to address this matter. The UK and Sweden funded experts to support the TFEIP to prepare the additional guidance and we are also happy to announce that Croatia has nominated an expert to the roster of experts in the field of industrial processes, solvents and other product uses. We will continue to look for additional experts that can be nominated to the roster of experts in the near future and for other ways to support the review work.

Agenda item 5(b)

Draft mandate for a proposed Task Force on Techno-economic Issues (TFTEI) - policy

The EU and its Member States welcome the creation of the new Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues merging the Expert Group on techno-Economic Issues, the Task Force on Heavy Metals and the Task Force on POPs. We also welcome its new mandate, which encompasses the traditional air pollutants and also POPs and Heavy Metals. This merger and its new mandate will allow for the work of the task forces to be streamlined and for information to be shared, including the prospect of the new regional clearing house of control technology information for emissions of SO₂, NO_x, VOCs, dust, black carbon, heavy metals and POPs. We would like to invite all Parties to contribute to the work of the Task Force through their nominated experts and, in particular, to the ongoing review of the Guidance document on mobile sources.

Review of implementation of the 2014–2015 workplan - Policy

During the last WGSR, the length of the information session with unilateral communications from Parties and lack of real discussions on the presentations meant that participants got disconnected, with the risk of altering the core business of the WGSR, from a policy workgroup into a workshop. The EU and its MS think that future information exchange sessions be limited to 1 day (max 1,5 days) and that ample time have to be given to discussions. All Parties should be invited to send in examples of good practice, in case they have introduced recently significant new good practises with respect to the current legislation. The most suitable examples should be selected for oral presentation by the Chair and the Bureau of the WGSR when they will select the themes and organizing the session, as reported in ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/112, §14.d. Moreover, the EU and its MS request to the secretariat to create a platform on the LRTAP website where all submitted examples are posted and where Parties can subsequently interact with questions and responses.

Revised ECE Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia emissions

The EU and its Member States wish to thank the TFRN for its hard work in preparing the revised ECE Framework Code for Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emission. This will be a useful tool to support Parties in preparing or updating their National Ammonia Codes under the Protocol.

We believe that the proposed revision of the framework code, as prepared by the TFRN, represents a comprehensive review of suitable measures towards meeting the objectives of the amended GP and support its adoption as an 'advisory code' as set out in the document ECE/EB.AIR/2014/8. We can also support the additional amendments provided to this formally submitted document as set out in informal document 8. Nevertheless there are a few additional drafting changes which we would like to suggest in relation to the fact that it is important that the language in the code is consistent with its voluntary status. There are some places where mandatory language is used and we would suggest that these are changed to recommendations in order to avoid confusion.

Agenda item 5(e): Communication and outreach

The EU and its Member States welcome the report on outreach activities prepared by the Secretariat. The report offers a good platform for the EB to consider further action.

Specifically, the EU and its Member States recommend that the EB Bureau and the Secretariat should contact the regional networks and mechanisms highlighted in the report under article 5.4.2 of the workplan, in order to identify synergies and determine their interest in collaborating with the Convention bodies on common goals. In this respect, we note the link with the 2014 UNEA decision on air pollution and believe that CLRTAP should - in the short term - prioritise outreach activities that are closely linked to that decision.

Furthermore, the EU and its Member States note the conclusions of the report that there are scientific reasons for outreach and, subject to resource constraints, would support further work to share information which could improve monitoring data on the deposition and impact of air pollutants on vegetation.

Finally, the EU and its Member States would like to invite the secretariat to report on at this session on the communication activities undertaken in accordance with the 2014-15 workplan. This will assist the the EB in its further consideration of the issue. In particular, we would be interested in an update on the implementation of item 5.3 of the work plan, regarding the drafting of a note on cost estimates of all extra-budgetary items with respect to the proposed communication recommendations in informal document 10 to the 32nd session of the EB.

Agenda item 6: Proposal by Montenegro for adjustment to Annex II of the Gothenburg Protocol

The EU and its Member States welcome the proposal from Montenegro to amend Annex II to enable its accession to the Gothenburg Protocol. We welcome such efforts, as we would like to see more ratifications of the protocols.

Agenda item 7: Future work under the 1998 Protocol on Heavy Metals

The EU and its Member States fully support the inclusion of work from the TFHM in the mandate for the new TFTEI and the discontinuation of the TFHM.

The effects of heavy metals on human health and the environment remain a concern for the EU and its Member States and it is important to continue the work of the science bodies under the Convention to develop our understanding of its impacts for any future policy action. The work undertaken by CLRTAP is also used by other Conventions e.g. the Minamata Convention and regional initiatives in Asia (EANET) and the new UNEP assessment and we should look for synergies in this work.

The EU and its Member States affirm their commitment to continue to work on further reductions of heavy metal emissions and further work on use in products. The highest priority is to have the 2012 amendment in force as soon as possible and to have more Parties to the protocol. Once that has been achieved and the impact of the Minamata Convention is better understood, we could give further consideration to next steps for the heavy metals protocol. We therefore propose to leave open the proposals for amendments to the Protocol made previously so that they can be given further consideration in the future.

Agenda item 9: Financial requirements for the implementation of the Convention

The EU and its Member States welcome the UNEA decision of Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality. We agree in particular that air pollution is a major threat to human health and environment, and action is urgent around the world.

We are particularly pleased to find that the decision makes a strong link with the CLRTAP – an opportunity the CLRTAP should not miss.

We believe the CLRTAP should act proactively and engage with the UNEP Executive Director (ED) to facilitate the implementation of the decision and actively share our experience with other regions.

We support tasking the EB Bureau to take the necessary contacts with the UNEP and the CCAC secretariats to explore the options for exchanging information and possible cooperation between CLRTAP and the UNEP and CCAC.