



Council of the
European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP):
53rd Session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR)
(Geneva, 15-17 December 2015)
- Final statements

Delegations will find in the Annex, for information purposes, 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
Working Group on Strategies and Review, 53th session, (Geneva, 15 - 17 December 2015)
Statements delivered by the EU and its Member States

Item 3: Progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 work plan

a) Report of the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2015/2)

The EU and its Member States welcome the report of the Task Force. We recognise the important work handled by the Task Force on Reactive Nitrogen in the framework of the 2014-2015 working plan. It has been of continuing strategic importance for the EU and the Convention. Inter alia, the TFRN provided the main scientific foundation of the proposed Annex III Part 2 for the proposal of revision of the NEC Directive.

We take note of the future work suggested by the TFRN which we in principle support, but the possibility to implement it depends on the long term financing of its activities which at the moment remains uncertain, as already discussed previously.

b) Report of the Task Force on Techno-Economic Issues (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2015/3)

The EU and its Member States welcome the report of the Task Force and would like to thank the Task Force for its good work. In that context we are keen to work closely with the Task Force to finalize the guidance documents for the meeting of the Executive Body to be held in May 2016.

The EU and its Member States feel it would be helpful to explicitly demonstrate to policy makers and the general public the important impact the Task Forces have on improving air quality and delivering the aims of the Convention. We suggest including in future reports a short high level summary focusing on outcomes and impacts of the activities undertaken.

We hope that the Task Force will continue its work in that direction and will intensify its cooperation with the other convention bodies in order to achieve the goals of the Long-term Strategy and the other needs of the Convention.

- c) Draft guidance document on mobile emission sources (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2015/4)
- d) Draft guidance document on methodologies for the calculation and measurement of emissions of volatile organic compounds (ECE/EB.AIR/WG.5/2015/5)

The EU and its Member States support the content of the two draft guidance documents. We recommend that they are approved by the WGSR and forwarded for adoption by the Parties at the 35th session of the Executive Body (May 2016). We have only spotted some minor errors or editorial changes that we want to bring to your attention.

The EU and its Member States have noticed the concerns raised by Belarus and the Russian Federation on the draft guidance document on methodologies for the calculation and measurement of emissions of VOC. As the accession of other Parties to the Gothenburg Protocol is of high importance, we suggest that Belarus's outstanding concerns should be looked at on an expert level by the TFTEI, and the draft guidance document adapted if needed. We also suggest that the TFTEI report on the progress of the discussion at the EB meeting in May.

The EU and its MS support the suggested procedure (as presented by the Chair). However, we would suggest that the TFTEI makes a kind of progress report to the EB in May, so that we have a follow up on the discussion for a possible adoption of the guidance document in December.

Item 4: Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

No statement delivered¹.

Item 5: Draft work plan for the Convention for 2016–2017

General statement on the work plan

The EU and its Member States welcome the draft 2016-2017 work plan for the implementation of the Convention and would like to thank the secretariat and all involved groups for their contributions and good work.

The work plan gives an overview of the many activities and the resource requirements and/or funding source. However, we would like to emphasize that it is important that the objectives and deliverables of activities are clear, for transparency and to enable effective prioritization. This is especially important given ongoing budget constraints. We suggest that this information is included in this and future work plans, particularly for those projects with no secured funding.

¹ The Commission delivered a presentation on the MCP directive. Poland delivered a presentation on its emission reduction programme for household installations.

In addition we would like to stress that the work of the taskforces continues to be strategically important for the convention as well as for the EU.

The EU and its Member States are expecting that the many organizations involved in the implementation of this Convention will work even more closely together to disseminate their knowledge and the results of their activities for the many projects for the benefit of a better Environment and the achievement of the SDG's.

Financing the work under the convention

At this stage the EU and its Member States need to flag that we are also very concerned about the downturn of financial support of the science and effect-based work of the Convention. It is particularly important in the light of ongoing budget constraints that in the future we find ways that allow for effective prioritization to ensure the highest priority activities are delivered within the available budget. We share the view expressed by the chairs and propose to have a more general discussion on the financing and priorities of work. As Parties have not prepared for such discussion it might be a topic for the EB meeting in May.

We therefore propose to discuss the issues on the financing and priorities of work of the TFRN and other groups in a coordinated manner with a view to find a long term solution.

Comments on the work plan item 4.1.

The EU and its MS stated that the capacity building is one of the main item that should be achieved under this working plan item.

Item 6: 2016 assessment report

The EU and its Member states thank you for the good work done and also for the excellent presentation. We welcome that information on policy and measures from North America will be included into the summary as well. The document explains the synergy with climate/energy, agricultural and other policies as well as possible synergistic effects of air pollution and global warming. It stresses out the importance of ratification of the protocols under the LRTAP Convention and advocates for a strong link with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We conclude that the draft executive summary shows that although much good work is done more is needed to achieve good air quality. We are confident that the report will provide a good basis for future policy development once finalized. If needed, the EU and its Member States will provide comments by the 15th of February 2016.