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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP):
56th Session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR 56)
(Geneva, 22 - 25 May 2018)
- Compilation of statements by the EU and its Member States

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 (CLRTAP)
56th session of the Working Group on Strategies and Review (WGSR 56)
(Geneva, 22 - 25 May 2018)

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

Agenda item 1: Adoption of the agenda

The EU and its Member States agree with the agenda as proposed

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the report of the 55th session of the WGSR

The EU and its Member States agree with adoption of the report of the 55th session of the WGSR as drafted by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 3: Progress in the implementation of the 2018-2019 workplan

The EU and its Member States greatly appreciate the work done, especially that of the TFRN and TFTEI, which is important for the Parties, including the EU and its Member States. The EU and its Member States recognise the need to prioritise actions, with the basic assumption of alignment with the 2018-2019 work plan as agreed between parties in the Executive Body of December 2017. With this in mind the EU and its Member States would like to propose the following regarding prioritization.

- Regarding the work of the TFTEI, the EU and its Member States would like to emphasize the benefits of a code of good practice for solid fuel burning and small combustion installations as included in item 2.3.8 of the 2018-2019 workplan and a report setting out the costs of inaction (to encourage ratification), as included in item 2.3.10. Both actions deserve to be given priority and sufficient funding according to the EU and its Member States. In the light of ratification also the development of a Russian version of the clearinghouse, under workplan item 2.3.6, should be seen as a priority in the short term, but this might require additional funding.
- Regarding the work of the TFRN the EU and its Member States propose to give priority to item 2.4.4 from the current workplan on the development of an integrated nitrogen guidance document. Such a document is crucial for future policy development. The proposed preparation in paragraph 25 of the TFRN report, on item 2.4.1 of the current workplan, of the next update of the guidance document should refer to the ECE guidance document that describes an integrated approach on nitrogen mitigation as described in item 2.4.4 of the current workplan.
- The EU and its Member States can support dissemination of information via a website but would propose to add a dedicated section on ammonia to the clearinghouse website already developed by the TFTEI, instead of developing a new website.

- On the proposal in paragraph 25, on item 2.4.1 of the current workplan to review the atmospheric ammonia chain, the EU and its Member States would like to stress that the update and development of emission factors should remain the responsibility of the TFEIP, where appropriate using information from the TFRN. The TFRN could focus on the work to linking inventories to ambient concentrations and meeting targets. As this task is not in the current workplan this activity could be considered for inclusion in the next workplan.

Agenda item 4: Update of the long-term strategy for the Convention

The EU and its Member States would thank the policy review group for all its hard work in the past year in providing a policy response to the 2016 Assessment Report and in delivering a draft for the revised Long Term Strategy for the Convention. The updated Long-term Strategy will set the future direction of travel for the Convention and is a very important piece of work.

We welcome this draft as an excellent piece of work, providing a clear synthesis of the past successes, remaining challenges and future priorities of the Convention. We also welcome that the proposals are broadly in line with suggested elements agreed by the Executive Body in December 2017. Nonetheless the EU and its Member States have several comments; and it is willing to propose concrete text changes. We would seek guidance of the chair on how to proceed with the discussion.

As said, the EU and its Member States will work constructively with other Parties at this WGRS session to come to recommendations and specific text changes for consideration by the Executive Body. Given the importance of the document combined with the relatively late publication of the document and the need for proper preparation, the EU and its Member States reserve their right to change their position (on specific elements) at the Executive Body.

Agenda item 5: Information sharing by Parties on the implementation of the Convention

5 (a) Good practices to strengthen the implementation of air pollution-related policies, strategies and measures

The EU and its Member States are committed to the aim and implementation of EB decision 2013/2 and decision 2016/3.

Several Member States informed the Secretariat as well as the Presidency about their proposal or consideration to give a presentation (DE, FR, RO and UK, of which DE and UK planned to combine their presentation with the one on domestic combustion under agenda item 5b).

5 (b) Current policy issues: thematic session on residential wood combustion and air pollution

Several Member States informed the Secretariat as well as the Presidency about their proposal or consideration to give a presentation (DE, FI, IT, LT, PL, ES, IE, FR and UK).

Agenda item 6: Implementation of the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air Initiative

Both Romania and Germany announced that they would make presentations regarding the Batumi Action for Cleaner Air
